

Primary Geography Vocabulary (EYFS – Year 6)

This vocabulary list follows the UK National Curriculum for Geography and provides key subject-specific terms from EYFS to Year 6. Each term includes an age-appropriate definition.

EYFS

Word	Definition
Map	A picture that shows where places are.
Weather	What the sky and air are like each day.
Rain	Water that falls from clouds.
Sun	The star that gives us light and warmth.
Wind	Air that moves around us.
Sea	A large area of salty water.
Land	The solid part of the Earth.
World	All the places on Earth.
House	A place where people live.
Farm	A place where crops are grown and animals are kept.
Town	A place where lots of people live and work.
Country	An area of land with its own government and people.
Hot	Having a high temperature.
Cold	Having a low temperature.
Season	One of the four parts of the year: spring, summer, autumn, winter.

Year 1

Word	Definition
Map	A drawing that shows where things are.
Globe	A model of the Earth.
Direction	The way something moves or faces.
North	One of the four main compass directions.
South	Opposite of north.
East	The direction the sun rises.
West	The direction the sun sets.
Country	A large area of land with its own government.
City	A large and busy place where many people live.
Village	A small community in the countryside.
Coast	Where the land meets the sea.
Island	Land surrounded by water.
Weather	What the sky and air are like each day.
Temperature	How hot or cold something is.
Rainfall	The amount of rain that falls in an area.

Year 2

Word	Definition
Continent	One of the seven large areas of land on Earth.
Ocean	One of the large bodies of salt water on Earth.
Equator	An imaginary line around the middle of Earth.
Pole	The northernmost or southernmost point on Earth.
Climate	The usual weather in a place over time.
Physical feature	Something natural, like a mountain or river.
Human feature	Something made by people, like a building or road.
Compass	A tool that shows direction.
Map key	A box on a map explaining symbols.
Symbol	A small picture that shows something on a map.
River	A long stream of water that flows to the sea.
Mountain	A very high area of land.
Fieldwork	Studying geography by observing and recording outdoors.
Habitat	A place where plants and animals live.
Weather pattern	The way weather changes over time.

Year 3

Word	Definition
Region	An area with similar features or climate.
Land use	How people use the land, e.g., farming or housing.
Settlement	A place where people live, such as a town or village.
Trade	Buying and selling goods or services.
Transportation	Moving people or goods from one place to another.
Grid reference	A way to find places on a map using numbers or letters.
Latitude	Imaginary lines showing distance north or south of the Equator.
Longitude	Imaginary lines showing distance east or west of the Prime Meridian.
Topography	The shape and features of the land.
Weathering	The breaking down of rocks by wind, water, or plants.
Erosion	The movement of rocks and soil by wind or water.
Source	The place where a river begins.
Mouth	The place where a river meets the sea.
Delta	Land formed where a river meets the sea and drops sediment.
Climate zone	An area with similar weather patterns.

Year 4

Word	Definition
Population	The number of people living in a place.
Natural resource	Something found in nature that people use.
Renewable resource	A resource that can be replaced, like wind or solar power.
Non-renewable resource	A resource that cannot be replaced quickly, like coal.
Sustainability	Using resources without harming the future.
Deforestation	Cutting down large areas of forest.
Urban	Areas with many buildings and people, like cities.
Rural	Countryside areas with fewer people.
Tourism	People travelling for fun or leisure.
Economy	How money and goods are made and used.
Migration	When people move from one place to another.
Transportation network	Routes that connect places, like roads or railways.
Weathering	The process of rocks breaking down naturally.
Climate change	Changes in Earth's long-term weather patterns.
Energy	Power used to do work, such as electricity or fuel.

Year 5

Word	Definition
Biome	A large area with similar plants, animals, and climate.
Vegetation belt	A region where similar plants grow.
River system	All parts of a river, including tributaries and channels.
Floodplain	Flat land next to a river that can flood.
Ecosystem	A community of living things and their environment.
Plate tectonics	The movement of Earth's surface plates.
Volcano	A mountain that can release lava, ash, and gas.
Earthquake	A sudden shaking of the ground.
Longitude and latitude	Imaginary lines to locate places on Earth.
Prime Meridian	The line dividing east and west on Earth.
Hemisphere	Half of the Earth (northern, southern, eastern, or western).
Time zone	An area where the same time is used.
Urbanisation	When more people start living in towns and cities.
Global trade	Buying and selling goods between countries.
Conservation	Protecting the environment and natural resources.

Year 6

Word	Definition
Development	How a country improves economically and socially.
Globalisation	How countries become connected through trade and communication.
Economic activity	How people earn and use money through jobs or businesses.
Human geography	The study of people and their environments.
Physical geography	The study of natural features of the Earth.
Topographic map	A detailed map showing the shape of the land.
Relief	How high or low the land is compared to sea level.
Coastal erosion	The wearing away of land by waves.
Climate graph	A chart showing temperature and rainfall over time.
Sustainability	Living in a way that protects the planet for the future.
Distribution	The way things are spread out over an area.
Trade link	A connection between countries through buying and selling goods.
Renewable energy	Energy from sources that don't run out, like wind or solar.
Non-renewable energy	Energy from sources that will run out, like oil or coal.

Geographical enquiry

Asking and answering questions about places using data and observation.