

Latitude: Used to measure north or south of the equator, also called parallels	Longitude: Used to measure east or west of the prime meridian	Prime Meridian: 0 degrees longitude which passes through Greenwich, England, bisects the earth into east & west hemispheres	Equator: 0 degrees latitude, bisects the earth in north & south hemispheres	Map Projection: Way of drawing the earth's surface to reduce the distortion of placing a round surface onto a flat one
Topography: The composition and shape of the earth & its locations	Hemisphere: Equal halves of the earth	Absolute Location: Exact place on earth where a physical feature is located using latitude & longitude	Relative Location: Location of a place on earth in relation to another spot on earth	Atmosphere: The layer of gases surrounding the earth's surface, contains primarily Nitrogen & Oxygen
Lithosphere: The solid rock portion of the earth's surface, both above & below the oceans	Hydrosphere: All of the water elements of the earth (oceans, rivers, lakes, seas, streams, water vapor)	Biosphere: The part of the earth where plants and animals live	Ecosystem: Independent community of plants & animals	Rain Forest: Forest located in the tropical zone that receives a lot of rain
Basin: The area drained by a major river(s) and its tributaries	Ground Water: The water held in the pores of rock under the surface	Water Table: The level at which the rocks are saturated with water	Plates: The surface pieces of earth's crust that are 'floating' on the magma below	Fault: The place where the boundaries of the plates meet, a fracture of the earth's crust
Plateau: An area of relatively level high ground	Continent: The largest pieces of land on the earth's surface	Earthquake: A sudden and violent shaking of the ground	Volcano: Mountain or hill that had a crater at the top that vents steam, ash, or lava	Solstice: Day when the sun is directly overhead on either the Tropic of Cancer or Tropic of Capricorn
Equinox: The two days in the year in which there is equal amount of time during day and night	Weather: The condition of the atmosphere at a particular place at a particular time	Climate: Condition of the atmosphere of a particular location over a period of time	Precipitation: Any form of water that is in the atmosphere or falls from it: rain, snow, sleet, hail	Rain Shadow: Land on the leeward side of mountains that receives little moisture
Temperate: Climate characterized by moderate temperatures	Tropics: Area between 23.5 degrees N or S of the equator with consistent high temperatures	Polar: Area N or S of 66.5 degrees with consistent cold temperatures	Semiarid: Climate, found usually in the interior of continents receives some precipitation, with hot summers & cold winters	Desert: This climate can be both hot or cold, but is characterized by the absence of precipitation almost the entire year
Weathering: The physical & chemical process in which rock is broken down	Erosion: When weathered rock is moved, either by wind, water, gravity, or ice	Religion: A set of beliefs that govern a group of people's way of thinking about the unexplainable	State: An independent unit that occupies a specific territory, often called a country	Nation: A group of people that share a common culture living in the same territory & have a strong sense of unity
Dictatorship: An individual or group holds complete power	Communism: In this government & economic system, all power & means of production is held by the government	Democracy: A government in which the citizens hold the power	Monarchy: A government that is headed by a king or queen	Culture: The beliefs, values, knowledge, rules that govern a group of people's behavior

Manufacturing: Aspect of an economy in which something material is produced for use	Agriculture: Aspect of an economy in which people produce something from the ground or from livestock	Capitalism: Economic system in which the means of production is owned by the individual & the goal is for profit-making	Natural Resources: Materials on earth that has economic value, examples: oil, lumber, coal, fish	Services: Aspect of an economy that doesn't produce something material, rather the people provide something for you
Plains: A relatively flat, treeless area, characterized by grass, term is usually used in the U.S.	Migration: The movement of people, goods, & ideas	Provinces: Political units, smaller than countries, called states in the U.S.	Export: Products that are sold & shipped to other countries for consumption	Imports: Products that are bought by a country & shipped into its borders for consumption by its citizens
Urban: Term given to the area consumed by cities	Rural: Term given to the area that is not in the city	Parliament: A legislative body that makes the laws for a country	Prime Minister: The majority party leader in Parliament who heads the government	Tourism: Economic practice that charges people money for the right to vacation in a particular region
Cultural Hearth: A place from which important ideas spread	Deforestation: When forests are being cut down fast for economic uses & the forests do not regrow	Fjords: Steep U-shaped valleys that connect to the sea & are filled with seawater	Peat: Partially decayed plant matter that can be used for energy	Peninsula: Landform that is surrounded on three sides by water
Nationalism Belief that people should be loyal to their nation	City-state Political unit made up of a city and its surrounding lands that governed Ancient Greece	Republic A govt. in which citizens elects its representatives-the govt. of Rome was an example of this	Ethnic cleansing Eliminating an ethnic group through violence	Smog Combination of fog and the smoke from the burning of fossil fuels
Ozone Form of oxygen that is found in the atmosphere that protects us from harmful UV rays	Nomadic Term meaning that a group of people moves from one place to another following their herds without a permanent home	Savanna Term for the grasslands that stretch along the deserts in Africa	Oasis Place in the desert where water has come to the surface and thus supports vegetation & wildlife	Canopy The top layer of the rainforests
Desertification An expansion of dry conditions into moist areas that are next to deserts-process by which land becomes a desert	Cash Crops Crops that are grown specifically for sale in markets and not for personal use	Pandemic An uncontrollable outbreak of a disease affecting a large population over a wide geographic area	Fossil Fuels Term given to the non-renewable resources that are used for energy	Distillation The process used at refineries to separate the different qualities of crude oil, such as gasoline, kerosene & motor oil
Monsoon Seasonal winds of the Indian subcontinent that bring either dry weather or tremendous amounts of precipitation	Subcontinent A large landmass that is smaller than a continent, India, Pakistan & Bangladesh are a part of one of these	Atoll The top of a submerged volcano that has a coral reef surrounding the island	Cyclone Tropical storms in the Eastern hemisphere that are similar in intensity & destruction of the hemisphere of the west	Desalination The process in which salt water is purified into fresh, drinking water
Partition To divide or separate. The British used this in India to separate the Hindus & Muslims	Typhoon A tropical storm that occurs in the western Pacific	Archipelago String of islands that formed either along a plate boundary or over hot spots in the ocean as volcanoes	Dynasty A series of rulers from the same family	Colony: Land or region that is under full or partial control of another country

