

# Project glossary

## **capital city**

The most important city in a country, where the government is based.

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## **carbon footprint**

The amount of carbon dioxide gas released into the atmosphere by one individual, one process or one company.

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## **cardinal point**

One of the four main points of the compass: north, east, south and west.

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## **city**

A large human settlement where many people live and work.

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## **climate**

The general weather conditions found in a place over a period of time.

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## **climate zone**

An area with a distinct climate.

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## **compass**

A hand-held device with a metal arrow that always points north, used for finding direction.

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## **continent**

One of seven large land masses on the Earth's surface, mainly surrounded by sea.

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## **continental drift**

The gradual movement of the continents over the Earth's surface.

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## **country**

An area of land with its own government.

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## **county**

An area of the United Kingdom that a local government manages.

**crust**

The outer layer of the Earth, made up of solid rock divided into tectonic plates.

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**earthquake**

A sudden, violent shaking of the ground.

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**easting**

The first two numbers in a four-figure grid reference found along the top and bottom of a map.

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**equator**

An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth.

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**four-figure grid reference**

A method of locating a grid square on a map. The first two numbers show the horizontal position, and the second two numbers show the vertical position.

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**human feature**

A geographical feature created by humans, such as a road or bridge.

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**inner core**

The very hot, solid centre of the Earth.

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**intercardinal point**

One of the four compass points midway between the cardinal points: north-east, south-east, south-west and north-west.

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**latitude**

A measure of distance north or south of the equator.

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**longitude**

A measure of distance east or west of the Prime Meridian.

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**magma**

Hot molten rock found in the Earth’s mantle.

**mantle**

The part of the Earth between the crust and the outer core that is made up of magma.

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**molten**

Something that has melted and is in a liquid state.

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**northing**

The second two numbers in a four-figure grid reference found up both sides of a map.

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**outer core**

The part of the Earth that lies between the solid inner core and the mantle.

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**physical feature**

A geographical feature created by nature, such as a lake or mountain.

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**plate boundary**

The place where tectonic plates meet.

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**Prime Meridian**

The line of longitude that passes through Greenwich in England from which all other lines of longitude are measured.

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**rural**

Relating to the countryside, not towns.

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**tectonic plate**

A large, slow-moving piece of rock that makes up the Earth’s crust.

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**town**

A place where people live and work, usually larger than a village but smaller than a city.

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**urban**

Relating to a town or city, not the countryside.

**village**

A place where people live in the countryside that is smaller than a town.

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**volcano**

A physical feature, usually a conical mountain or a hill, that has a crater through which lava, rock fragments and hot gas erupt.