

# Project glossary

## Geography vocabulary

### **Antarctic Circle**

A line of latitude that lies 66.5°S of the equator. Everything south of this line is known as the Antarctic.

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### **Antarctica**

A continent in the Antarctic region with a polar climate.

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### **Arctic Circle**

A line of latitude that lies 66.5°N of the equator. Everything north of this line is known as the Arctic.

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### **Arctic region**

An area in the Northern Hemisphere that includes parts of Canada, Alaska, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Greenland, Iceland and the Arctic Ocean.

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### **boreal forest**

A large area of wetland covered in conifer trees found in countries that are in or near the Arctic Circle.

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### **carbon footprint**

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

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### **climate**

The usual weather conditions that occur in a place over a long period.

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### **climate change**

The long-term change in expected weather patterns that contribute to the melting of polar ice caps, rising sea levels and extreme weather.

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### **crevasse**

A deep crack in the thick ice of a glacier.

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### **equator**

A line of latitude around the middle of the Earth at 0°.

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### **glacier**

A river or mass of ice that is moving slowly and formed from compacted snow.

**global warming**

A gradual increase in world temperatures caused by gases such as carbon dioxide collecting in the air around the Earth and stopping heat from escaping into space.

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**greenhouse effect**

The trapping of heat from the Sun in the Earth’s atmosphere due to the presence of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide.

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**horizon**

The line where the sky appears to meet the Earth.

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**ice field**

A large area of connected glaciers.

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**ice sheet**

A mass of glacial ice that covers the ground, also known as a continental glacier.

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**ice shelf**

A floating sheet of ice attached to a land mass.

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**iceberg**

A large piece of frozen freshwater that has broken off a glacier, ice shelf or larger iceberg.

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**indigenous**

Occurring naturally or originating in a particular place.

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**line of latitude**

An imaginary line that runs horizontally around the Earth, measured in degrees north (°N) or south (°S) of the equator.

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**line of longitude**

An imaginary line that runs vertically from the North Pole to the South Pole, measured in degrees east (°E) or west (°W) of the Prime Meridian.

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**native**

Refers to the animals and plants that occur naturally in a place.

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**North Pole**

The most northern geographical point of the Earth.

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**Northern Hemisphere**

The part of the Earth that is to the north of the equator.

**permafrost**

A layer of soil that remains frozen all year round.

**polar day**

Near constant daylight in the Arctic or Antarctic during the summer months when the Sun does not set below the horizon, also known as Midnight Sun.

**polar night**

Near constant darkness in the Arctic or Antarctic during the winter months when the Sun does not rise above the horizon.

**precipitation**

Water that falls from clouds in the sky as rain, snow, hail or sleet.

**Prime Meridian**

The line of longitude that passes through Greenwich in England and marks 0° longitude, from which all other longitudes are measured.

**South Pole**

The most southern geographical point of the Earth.

**Southern Hemisphere**

The part of the Earth that is to the south of the equator.

**topography**

The physical appearance of the natural features of an area of land, especially the shape of its surface.

**tourism**

An industry that involves people travelling for recreation and leisure.

**Tropic of Cancer**

A line of latitude that runs around the Earth at 23.5°N of the equator.

**Tropic of Capricorn**

A line of latitude that runs around the Earth at 23.5°S of the equator.

**tundra**

An area of land where it is too cold for trees to grow and the ground below the surface is permanently frozen.

# Science vocabulary

## **amphibian**

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lives on land and in water.

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## **behavioural adaptation**

Changes in the way a living thing behaves, such as hibernation, that confers an advantage in their habitat.

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## **bird**

A warm-blooded vertebrate with feathers, wings and a beak.

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## **characteristic**

A quality or physical feature of a living thing.

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## **classification**

The arrangement of all living things into groups based on their shared characteristics.

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## **classification key**

A set of questions that help to identify a living thing and decide to which group it belongs.

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## **evolution**

The process by which complex living things developed from simple life forms during the history of Earth.

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## **fish**

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lives in water and is covered in scales. Most fish have fins for movement and gills for breathing.

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## **invertebrate**

An animal without a backbone.

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## **mammal**

A vertebrate animal that is warm blooded, gives birth to live young, has fur or hair and breathes air with lungs. Females produce milk to feed their offspring.

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## **physical adaptation**

Changes to a living thing's physical features, such as fur, that confer an advantage in their habitat.

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## **reptile**

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lays soft-shelled eggs, has skin covered in scales and breathes with lungs.

**thermal insulator**

A material that does not allow heat to pass through.

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**vertebrate**

An animal that has a backbone.