

Project glossary

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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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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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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contour line

A line on a map joining points of equal height above sea level.

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cyclone

A violent and disruptive storm in which the wind moves very fast in a circular direction.

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equator

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

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export

To send goods or services to another country for sale.

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farming

Raising livestock and growing crops.

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fossil fuel

A natural fuel, such as oil or coal, that was formed underground millions of years ago from the remains of living things.

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four-figure grid reference

Used to indicate the bottom left-hand corner of a particular 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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Global Climate Risk Index

A set of data that ranks how much countries have been affected by extreme weather related to climate change.

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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.

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

The time at the Prime Meridian that runs through Greenwich, London, on which world time zones are based.

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hurricane

A violent wind that has a circular movement.

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import

To bring goods or services in from another country for sale.

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industry

The activities and companies that process raw materials and manufacture goods for sale.

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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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manufacturing

Using machinery in factories to make goods on a large scale.

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map scale

The ratio of a distance on the map to the corresponding distance on the ground.

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map symbol

A picture or icon that represents a physical or human feature on a map.

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natural resources

Things that come from the Earth and provide everything we need to survive, including air, water, food, wood, energy and soil.

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Northern Hemisphere

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

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A naturally occurring rock that contains metals.

Prime Meridian

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

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scale ratio

The relationship between the distance on a map and the distance on land written as a ratio, for example 1cm:1 km means that 1 cm on a map represents 1 km on land.

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settlement

A place where people live permanently.

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shipping

Sending goods from one place to another, often by sea.

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six-figure grid reference

A method of locating a specific point within a grid square on a map. The first three numbers, called the eastings, show the horizontal position and the second three numbers, called the northings, show the vertical position.

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Southern Hemisphere

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

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time zone

One of 24 equal parts into which the world is divided, each one an hour in front or behind the ones to either side.

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Tropic of Cancer

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

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Tropic of Capricorn

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

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typhoon

A violent storm with very strong winds.