

Project glossary

aquatic

All the habitats on Earth that are covered with water.

biodiversity

The number and types of plants and animals that exist in a particular area.

biome

A large ecosystem that has characteristic features, such as the climate and landscape. Example biomes include desert, grassland, forest, tundra and aquatic.

climate

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

climate zone

An area with a distinct climate.

contour line

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

desert

A large, dry area where there is little rain and few plants.

ecosystem

A community of living organisms and their environments that interact with each other.

equator

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

forest

A large area of land covered with trees and plants.

grassland

A large open area of land covered with grass.

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

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

hamlet

A small settlement, usually without a church.

line of latitude

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

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.

motorway

A main road with multiple lanes for fast travel over long distances.

Ordnance Survey map

A detailed map showing the landscape's human and physical features.

population density

The number of individuals living in each unit of area.

Prime Meridian

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

savannah

An area of grassy plain in a tropical area with few trees.

scale

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

settlement

A place where people live permanently.

temperate

A climate with warm summers and cool, snowy winters.

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.

tropical

An area that is hot and wet with a constant temperature, and a wet season and dry season.

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.

vegetation belt

An area where certain species of plant grow.