

Key: Most maps use symbols and colours that represent certain things, so they have map keys, also called legends, which tell you what the symbols mean.

Map scale: A map has to 'shrink' a large area of land to represent it at a much smaller size. To demonstrate how much they have had to 'shrink' things, cartographers use a map scale. A map scale, which looks like a tiny ruler in the corner of the map, shows the relationship between the distance on the map and the distance in real life.

continuous: happening all of the time without a break

gyres: circular movements

pollution: a poisonous or dirty substance

garbage: American word for rubbish

categorise: to put into groups (categories)

inhabit: to live in

terrestrial: on land

aquatic: in water

climate: the average expected weather in a place

Maps have a grid system to help locate places with accuracy. The horizontal lines that divide the map are known as **eastings** and the vertical lines are known as **northings**. All of the eastings and northings are labelled with numbers that can be seen on all four edges of the map. By combining the numbers of the eastings and northings a **grid reference** is formed. A **four-digit grid reference** corresponds to a specific square on the map, allowing you to accurately describe an area on the map.

equatorial: at the equator

sub-equatorial: close to the equator

precipitation: rain, snow, sleet or hail

emergents: tall trees growing above the canopy

canopy: the thick layer of leaves covering a rainforest

under storey: trees just below the canopy

deforestation: cutting down large areas of trees

temperate: neither very hot or cold

deciduous: losing its leaves in autumn

shrubs: small bushes near the floor of a rainforest

timber: wood from trees

emissions: things, such as gases, released into the atmosphere

ecosystem: all the conditions, plants and animals that exist in a particular area

arid: dry

evaporates: turns from a liquid into a gas

vegetation: plants and trees

nocturnal: being active at night

permafrost: soil that is permanently frozen

ecosystems: all the conditions, plants and animals that exist in a particular area

hibernate: lie dormant (asleep) through winter

migrate: travel to another area

clusters: groups

terrestrial: on land

situated: positioned

favourable: helpful

uninhabited: not lived in by people

nutrients: substances that help living things grow

migrate: travel to another area

hibernate: lie dormant (asleep) through winter

sporadic: only in a few places

roaming: wandering around

grazing: grass-eating

desertification: becoming like a desert

abundant: more than enough

carnivorous: meat-eating

predators: animals that hunt other animals

saline: containing salt

vertical: with the top directly above the bottom

detected: found

significant: large enough to be important

photosynthesis: the way that green plants make their food using sunlight

ecosystem: all the conditions, plants and animals that exist in a particular area

aquifer: an underground area of rock that absorbs and holds water

habitats: the places where plants and animals live

migration: movement from one country or area to another

latitude: the distance of a place from the equator

majority: most

permafrost: soil that is permanently frozen

microscopic: extremely small (can only be seen with a microscope)

latitude: the distance of a place from the equator

lowlands: areas of low, flat land

agricultural: relating to farming and its methods

predominant: larger in number

colonised: took control over

indigenous: originally from a country

populous: with a large population

sparsely: with only a small number of people

metropolitan: relating to a large city

irrigation: watering crops

rises: begins

numerous: many

confluence: where two or more rivers join together

pesticides: chemicals used to kill insects that eat crops

topographic: relating to the physical features of an area

subduction: the movement of one tectonic plate below another

seismic: relating to earthquakes

landmass: a large continuous area of land

sparsely: with only a small number of people

landlocked: with no access to the sea

indigenous: native to a country

colony: a country occupied by another country

median: the middle value when arranged in order

populous: with a large population

sparsely: with only a small number of people

river basin: the portion of land drained by a river

tributary: a river that flows into another river

discharging: flowing into

topographic: relating to the physical features of an area

subduction: the movement of one tectonic plate below another

seismic: relating to earthquakes

citadel: in the past – a place for shelter or safety

expanses: large areas

precipitation: rain, snow, sleet or hail

fertile: supports growth well