

Maps and Photographs in Geography

Word	Definition	Translation
accurate	correct or true in every detail	
aerial	from a plane (an aerial photo)	
altitude	the height of a place or thing above sea level (=the surface of the sea).	
arrow	a sign that looks like an arrow, used for showing people which direction to go in, or where to look for something	
atlas	a book of maps.	
background	the part of a picture or pattern that is behind the main people or things in it	
battlefield	a place where a battle takes place or where one took place in the past	
bay	an area of the coast where the land curves inwards.	
bearing	an exact position, usually measured from north.	
boreal	of or relating to the north.	
border	the official line that separates two countries or regions.	
boundary	something such as a line on a map that marks where one area of land ends and another begins	
bridging point	the narrowest place where it is possible to cross a river.	
castle	large strong building with thick walls, built in the past to protect the people inside from being attacked	
cliff	the steep side of an area of high land	
col	a pass between high places in mountains	
compass	a piece of equipment used for finding your way, with a needle that always points north	
contour	contour or contour line a line on a map joining points that are the same height above or below sea level. The lines are used for showing hills, mountains, and valleys	
converge	to come from different directions to reach the same point.	
crop	a plant grown for food, usually on a farm.	
crossroads	a place where one road crosses another	
density	the amount of something in a place	
dip	a place in a surface that is lower than the surrounding area	
distance	the amount of space between two people or things	
district	an area of a town or country	
drainage	1 a system of pipes and passages that take away water or waste liquid from an area. 2 the process of taking away water or waste liquid from somewhere.	
dwelling	a house, flat, or other shelter in which someone lives	
estuary	the part of a large river where it becomes wide and flows into the sea	
farm	an area of land that is used for growing crops or keeping animals	
feature	an important part or aspect of something	

field	1 an area where gas, coal, oil, or other useful substances are found. 2 an area of land used for keeping animals or growing food.	
footbridge	a narrow bridge for people to walk across	
footpath	path used only for walking, usually in the countryside	
fort	a strong building, often with a high wall around it, used by soldiers for defending a place	
geographical	relating to an area or place, or to geography.	
globe	a round object that has a map of the world on it.	
gradient	a measure of how steep a road is.	
grid reference	a set of numbers and letters that shows a particular position on a map. The numbers and letters relate to the lines of the map's grid (=an arrangement of straight lines that cross each other to form a series of squares).	
headland	a narrow piece of land that sticks out into the sea.	
horizontal	straight and parallel to the ground.	
indicate	to be a sign or symbol of something.	
inlet	a long narrow area of water that continues into the land from a lake or sea	
inner city	an area near the centre of a large city where a lot of poverty and other social problems exist	
international data line	an internationally agreed imaginary line that runs along the 180° meridian of longitude. The date is one day earlier to the east of it than to the west of it.	
key	a list of the symbols that are used on a map or a drawing.	
landform	a feature on the Earth's surface such as a mountain or a valley.	
landscape	an area of land that is beautiful to look at or that has a particular type of appearance.	
large scale	a large-scale map or plan is one that is big enough to show a lot of details	
lighthouse	a tower built next to the sea that has a powerful flashing light at the top to show ships where to go or to warn them of danger	
location	the place or position where someone or something is or where something happens.	
landmass	a continent or a large area of land that is surrounded by sea.	
latitude	the distance of a point on the Earth from the equator, measured in degrees north or south.	
longitude	the position of a place in the world when it is measured in relation to east or west, not to north or south.	
map projection	a method of making a flat map of the Earth, or a map made by this method.	
meadow	a field where grass and wild flowers grow	
measurement	the exact size, degree, strength etc of something, usually expressed in numbers of standard units	
meridian	one of the lines on a map that goes around the Earth from the North Pole to the South Pole.	

oblique	an oblique photograph is taken with the camera looking down and across at the area being photographed	
ordnance survey map	a very detailed official map of a part of the UK	
orienteering	a sport in which people try to find their way on foot across an area of countryside using a map and a compass.	
pasture	land covered with grass where sheep, cows etc are kept.	
plot	to mark on a map the way that a ship or plane travels.	
prime meridian	the imaginary line on the Earth's surface that all lines of longitude are measured from. It passes through Greenwich in England.	
protruding	further forward than the rest of something.	
railway	the metal track that trains travel on	
region	a large area of land.	
relief	the elevations of a land surface.	
roundabout	a circular area where three or more roads meet that you have to drive around in one direction in order to get onto another road.	
rain gauge	a piece of equipment used for measuring the amount of rain that falls.	
satellite	an object that is sent into space to travel round the Earth in order to receive and send information.	
scale	the relationship between the actual distance or size of something and how it is shown on a map or in a drawing or model.	
scattered	spread over a large area	
settlement	a place where people have come to live permanently, usually when there were very few people living there before	