

Geographic Terms - Grade K-3

Glossary

bay part of a larger body of water that look like a gulf, but is usually smaller

change to make something different

city a place where many people live and work

city population symbol shows where the city is located and about how many people live there

coastline where the water touches the land

community larger than a neighborhood, it takes a number of neighborhoods to make up a community

compass rose a direction finder drawn on maps

continent the largest land areas. The seven continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America

country an area of land where people live under one government. The United States is a country.

country boundary symbol a line drawn on a map that shows where the territory of one country begins and another ends

country capital a special city in each country where the government leaders meet to do their work

desert a region with very little rainfall

east to the right of a person standing on the Earth facing the North Pole

Equator a line drawn on maps and globes that is halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole

forest a growth of trees covering a large area

globe a model of the Earth

gulf a part of a larger body of water, usually an ocean or a sea. A gulf makes an indentation in the coastline.

hill a piece of land that is higher than the land around it, but not as high as a mountain

intermediate directions those direction found halfway between the main directions of north, south, east, and west

island a body of land completely surrounded by water

job the type of work a person does

lake a body of water completely surrounded by land

land elevation the height of the land above the surface of the ocean

main directions north, south, east, and west

map a drawing of someplace on the Earth

map grid system a series of crossing lines used to find places on maps

map legend the place on the map that explains the meaning of the symbols

map scale used to measure distance between places on a map

mountain a piece of land that rises high above the land around it

natural feature something not made by people. Examples would be trees, mountains, and rivers.

natural resource the land and water features of the Earth that are used to meet a need

need something people must have

neighborhood a place where people live close to one another

north toward the North Pole

northeast halfway between north and east

North Pole the place on the Earth that is the farthest north

northwest halfway between north and west

ocean the largest water areas. The four oceans are the Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific

peninsula a piece of land with water on three sides

people made features something that is made by peoples. Examples would be cars, buildings, and streets

physical map a map that shows land elevations

plain an almost level area of land

plateau a flat piece of land with a high land elevation

political map a map that shows political division, such as states of the Unites States or countries of the world

pollution when your surroundings are unsafe and dirty

resource something people use to meet a need

river a large stream of water that flows through the land

river mouth	a place where a river empties into another body of water
river source	the place where a river begins
rural	describes a place where few people live and work
sea	a large body of salt water, smaller than an ocean
south	toward the South Pole, opposite north
southeast	halfway between the south and east
South Pole	the place on the earth that is farthest south
southwest	halfway between south and west
state	an area of land that is part of our country. There are fifty states in the United States
state boundary symbol	a line drawn on a map showing where the territory of one state begins and another ends
state capital	a city in each state where leaders meet who work for the government
suburb	a neighborhood away from the downtown area
symbol	a drawing, line or dot that stands for something else
town	a small community, smaller than a city
traffic	the movement of cars, vans, buses, and trucks on streets and highways
transportation	the movement of people or products from place to place
United States Map	a map showing all fifty states
urban	describes a downtown area of a city

valley a long, low place between hills or mountains

west to the left of a person standing on the Earth facing the North Pole

work the activity a person does for which they get paid

World map a map that shows the entire world