

Geography – Key Vocabulary 2026-2027

Year 1

Topic 1: Where is Madeley? (Where We Live)

- House (A building for people to live in)
- Shop (A building where goods are sold)
- Town (A large group of houses, shops and buildings where people live and work. Towns are larger than villages but smaller than cities)
- Village (A small group of houses, perhaps with a few shops, that are often in the countryside)
- City (A large town)
- Office (A place where people go to work, usually business or professional work)
- River (A large, natural stream of fresh water that flows into a sea or lake)
- Forest (Large area covered with trees)
- Map (A drawing of a particular area)
- Pool (A small body of still water)
- Far (Distant)
- Key (Symbols, or pictures, on a map, and what they mean)
- Near (Close)

Topic 2: Which countries are in the UK?

- Country (An area of land that is controlled by its own government)
- Capital city (The city where the government is. London is the capital city of England and the UK)
- City (A large town. London is a city)
- United Kingdom (The UK, is officially known as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- Great Britain (An island that is made up of England, Scotland and Wales)
- England (A country in the United Kingdom. Madeley is a village in England)
- Flag (A piece of cloth which can be attached to a pole which is used as a symbol of a country)
- Island (A piece of land that is completely surrounded by water)
- London (The capital city of England and the UK)
- Sea (A large area of salty water that is part of an ocean)
- Surrounded (To be all around something)
- Village (A small group of houses, perhaps with a few shops, that are often in the countryside. Madeley is a village)
- Compass point (Any of the main points or directions on a compass – north, south, east and west)

Topic 3: What is the weather like in different places?

- Weather (The state of the atmosphere in a place)
- Season (Time with a particular type of weather)
- Climate (The weather in a place over a period of time)
- Temperature (How hot or cold it is)
- Atmosphere (The air in a place)

- Season (Time with a particular type of weather)
- Spring (Season where the weather starts to get warmer. Plants come back to life and animals are usually born)
- Summer (The warmest season. Children are not in school and the days are the longest)
- Autumn (Season where the weather starts to get colder. Leaves change colour and fall off the trees)
- Winter (The coldest season. It is usually frosty and might snow. Some animals go to sleep and some birds fly to warmer places)
- Wind (The movement of air)
- Rain (Water that falls from clouds)
- Sun (Star in the sky which the Earth travels around. It gives light and warmth to the Earth)
- Snow (Soft, white pieces of frozen water that fall from clouds)
- Ice (Frozen water. Ice is hard)
- Hail (Small, hard pieces of ice that fall from clouds)
- Fog (Tiny drops of water in the air close to the ground. It is sometimes thick and hard to see through)
- Cloud (Tiny drops of frozen water in the sky)
- Temperature (How hot or cold it is)
- Waterproof (Something that keeps water out)
- Earth (The planet that we live on)
- Axis (An imaginary line an object turns around)
- Orbit (An imaginary path an object takes to travel around something)
- Tilt (When something slopes and one side is higher than the other)

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Year 2

Topic 1: What is it like to live in a village and a city?

- Village (A small group of houses, perhaps with a few shops, that are often in or near the countryside)
- Town (A large group of houses, shops and buildings where people live and work)
- City (A large town. Stoke-On-Trent and London are cities)
- Canal (A man-made stream of water)
- Capital city (The city where the government sits)
- County (A region of Britain or Ireland with its own local government)
- Factory (Large building where things are made)
- Hill (A naturally raised area of land, which is not as high as a mountain)
- Pool (A small area of still water that is smaller than a lake)
- River (A large, natural stream of water that flows into the sea or lake)
- United Kingdom (The UK, is officially known as the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- Woodland (A large area where trees grow close together)

Topic 2: What are the continents and oceans?

- Sea (A body of salt water, smaller than an ocean)
- Ocean (A large body of salt water)
- Continent (land mass defined by physical, human, or cultural features: Europe, Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Oceania, North America or South America)
- Ocean (One of the five very large areas of salt water on the Earth's surface – Atlantic, Pacific, Indian, Arctic, Southern)
- Country (Country (political area defined by physical, human, or cultural features))
- Equator (imaginary line around the middle of the Earth where day and night are almost equal, and there is little change in season; some areas have a dry season and wet season)
- North, South, East, West (compass points, locational vocabulary)
- North Pole (the most northerly place of the Earth)
- South Pole (the most southerly place of the Earth)

Topic 3: What is similar and different about Madeley and Tanzania?

- Mountain (A very high area of land with steep sides)
- River (A natural stream of flowing water)
- Valley (A stretch of flat, low land between hills or mountains)
- Vegetation (Plants, trees and flowers)
- City (A large town. London is a city)
- Climate (Weather that is typical of a place)
- Continent (A very large area of land that is made of many countries. Europe is a continent)
- Country (An area of land that is controlled by its own government)
- Farm (Land used to produce crops or breed animals and livestock)

- Hill (A naturally raised area of land, which is not as high as a mountain)
- Humid (A climate that is hot and damp)
- Village (A small group of houses, perhaps with a few shops)

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Year 3/4/5

Topic 1: What are climate zones and why do they matter?

- Biome (geographical area defined by its climate, plant and animal life and the activities of the people who live there)
- Climate (weather patterns in a place over a long period, such as seasonal rainfall, sunshine and temperatures)
- Climate zone (Sections of the Earth that are divided according to the climate. There are three main climate zones: polar, temperate and tropical)
- Desert (area with very little rain, extreme heat and/or cold, where few forms of life can survive)
- Drought (period with very little or no rain)
- Environment (conditions to which a plant, animal or person is adapted)
- Fauna (animals native to an area, such as birds, reptiles and insects)
- Flora (plants native to an area, such as trees, climbers, flowers and grasses)
- Grassland (large area covered with grasses)
- Rainfall (measured level of water that has fallen as rain, snow, sleet or hail in a given period)
- Temperature (measured level of heat or cold in the air)
- Tropical (to do with the region on either side of the Equator, between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn)
- Tundra (land where the soil beneath the surface is frozen all year and trees cannot survive the low temperatures and short growing season)
- Vegetation belt (area where similar types of plantlife grow, adapted to the conditions there)
- Weather (conditions in the atmosphere on a particular day, such as temperature, windiness, rainfall, hours of sunshine or cloud cover)

Topic 2: How diverse are Europe's landscapes and places?

- Capital city (The city where the government sits)
- City (A large town)
- Continent (A very large area of land that consists of many countries)
- Country (An area of land that is controlled by its own government)
- Human geography (Features of land that have been impacted by human activity)
- Landmark (A building or feature which is easily recognised)
- Physical geography (Natural features of land)
- Population (All of the people who live in a country or area)
- Climate (The general weather conditions that are typical of a place)
- Coasts (An area of land next to the sea)
- Compass points (Any of the main points of a compass: north, south, east, west, north-east, north-west, south-east, south-west)
- Language (The communication of a particular country or people)
- Ocean (One of the five very large areas of salt water on the Earth's surface)
- Sea (A large area of salty water that is part of an ocean)

- Temperate (A place which is never extremely hot or extremely cold)
- Tourist (A person who is visiting a place for pleasure and interest)
- Trade (The activity of buying, selling or exchanging goods or services)

Topic 3: How is our local area changing and how has it changed?

- Settlement (a place where a group of people live, work and build a community together)
- Fieldwork (investigating outdoors using geographical tools, knowledge or skills to gather information or data)
- Census (official collection of data about a whole population)
- Developed (changed from how it was in the past)
- Historical map (a map that shows what an area was like in the past)
- Route (the start and end point of a journey)
- Static (does not move or change)
- Survey (collecting information by asking a set of questions)

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Year 6

Topic 1: What is it like in the Mediterranean?

- Biome (A natural area of the living world which has its own climate, vegetation and animals)
- Climate zone (Sections of the Earth that are divided according to climate. There are three main climate zones: polar, temperate and tropical)
- Coast/Coastline (An area of land close to the sea)
- Mountain (A very high area of land with steep sides)
- Northern Hemisphere (Half of the Earth north of the Equator)
- Southern Hemisphere (Half of the Earth south of the Equator)
- Valley (A stretch of flat, low land between hills or mountains)
- Canyon (A long, narrow valley with very steep sides)
- Village (A small group of houses, perhaps with a few shops)
- Town (A large group of houses, shops and buildings where people live and work. Towns are larger than villages but smaller than cities)
- City (A large town)
- Climate (The general weather conditions that are typical of a place)
- Continent (A very large area of land that consists of many countries)
- Equator (An imaginary line around the middle of the Earth at an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole)

Topic 2: What are the causes and effects of climate change?

- Climate change (Long term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns)
- Climate (The general weather conditions that are typical of a place)
- Global warming (Long-term rising of the Earth's temperature)
- Fossil fuels (Natural, non-renewable fuels formed in the geological past from the remains of living organisms, such as coal or gas)
- Renewable energy (Energy made from fuels that can be replenished and nature will replace e.g., solar, wind)
- Deforestation (Purposeful clearing of trees)
- Pollution (Introduction of a substance into the environment that has harmful or poisonous effects)>

Topic 3: Who can we trade with?

- Trade (The activity of buying, selling or exchanging goods or services)
- Trade link (The relationship and arrangements between countries or organisations)
- Trade routes (A route, often covering long distances, that is used by traders)
- Distribution (Delivering goods to a number of places)
- Economy (A country's economy is the wealth that it gets from business and industry)
- Export (To export products or raw materials means to sell them to another country)
- Global (Something that happens in all parts of the world or affects all parts of the world)
- Import (To import products or raw materials means to buy them from another country for use in your own country)

- Manufacture (To make something on a large scale, mostly using machinery)
- Natural resources (The land, forests, energy sources and minerals existing naturally in a place that can be used by people)
- Economy (A country's economy is the wealth that it gets from business and industry)
- Infrastructure (The basic things (e.g., equipment, technology) that are necessary for something to work)
- Fair Trade (Companies in developed countries pay a fair price for products from developing countries)