

# GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS

1. absolute location - the location of which can be given in latitude and longitude, also called exact location.
2. aquifer - an underground reservoir of water contained within a porous rock layer.
3. archipelago - a group or chain of islands.
4. atoll - a ring of coral islands encircling a lagoon.
5. boundary - a line on a map that separates one country from another.
6. cargo - a load of products carried from one place to another.
7. communication - the sending out of ideas and information.
8. conservation - preserving valuable resources.
9. continental divide - the geographic area that separates the direction in which water currents flow.
10. continental shelf - the shallow, gently sloping sea floor that surrounds each continent.
11. country - the territory of a nation, marked by a boundary that separates it from other nations.
12. deposit - a large area of mineral deep in the earth.
13. dormant volcano - a temporarily inactive volcano.
14. drought - a long period without precipitation.
15. economic activity - a way that people use their resources to live.
16. ecosystem - a system formed by the interaction of living organisms with each other and with their environment.
17. environment - the surroundings in which everything lives.
18. erosion - the wearing away of land by the elements (ice, sun, water, and wind).
19. escarpment - a cliff separating two nearly flat land surfaces that lie at different levels
20. estuary - the widening mouth of a river where it meets the sea.
21. extinct volcano - a totally inactive volcano.
22. fertile - good for growing plants and crops.
23. forest - a large area covered with trees and undergrowth.
24. frontier - land that is mostly unsettled; at the edge of settlement.

25. geothermal power - energy from heat within the Earth.
26. geyser - a hot spring that shoots water and steam into the air.
27. gorge - a deep, narrow passage between mountains.
28. grassland - a wide area covered with grass and an occasional tree.
29. grove - a large field of trees - usually planted by man.
30. growing season - the period of time in which the weather is warm enough for crops to grow.
31. hydroelectric power - electric energy produced by water power.
32. irrigation - supplying water to dry land through pipes, ditches, or canals.
33. jungle - a hot, humid area of land which is overgrown with trees and other plants.
34. lagoon - a shallow body of water opening to the sea, protected by a sandbar or coral reef.
35. landform - a shape of land, such as mountain, valley, or plateau.
36. landlocked country - a country surrounded by land without access to the sea.
37. landmark - an important thing or place that stands out from everything around it.
38. lava - hot, liquid rock.
39. location - the position of a point on the surface of the earth; can be exact or relative.
40. mesa - a broad, flat-topped landform with steep sides found in arid or semiarid regions.
41. mineral - a natural occurring substance found on the earth.
42. mining - the process of taking mineral deposits from the earth.
43. monsoon - a wind that produces wet and dry seasons in southern and eastern Asia.
44. moraine - an accumulation of debris carried and deposited by a glacier.
45. natural gas - a light mineral often used for fuel; usually found near petroleum.
46. natural resource - something occurring in nature that people need or want.
47. oasis - a place in the desert where water from underground springs allows plants to grow.
48. ore - a mixture of rock, soil, and minerals.
49. outback - the remote back-country of Australia.
50. petroleum - an oily liquid mineral.
51. pollution - damage to air, water, or land by smoke, dust, or chemicals.

52. population - all of the people who live in a particular place.
53. population density - the number of people living in each square mile of an area.
54. preservation - keeping things safe from damage or destruction.
55. ravine - a narrow valley with steep sides.
56. raw material - a material in its natural state, used for making finished goods.
57. region - an area having distinctive characteristics that make it different from the surrounding areas.
58. relative location - the locating of a point on the earth's surface in relation to other points.
59. resource - a supply of valuable or useful things such as water, coal, soil, forests, or air.
60. rural - away from cities and close to farms.
61. state - the strongest governing body, subordinate to a national government.
62. symbol - something that stands for a real thing.
63. territory - a region that is owned or controlled by another country or political unit.
64. time zone - one of 24 areas or zones of the Earth in which the time is one hour earlier than in the zone to its east.
65. transportation - the way in which people or goods travel or are moved from one place to another.