

Glossary

absolute location description of a place using grid coordinates (latitude and longitude)

aqueduct a large pipe or channel that carries water a long distance

archipelago a group of islands

arctic climate a climate of extreme cold

Arctic tundra a cold, dry region near the Arctic Ocean where no trees grow

agriculture business of farming

axis an imaginary line that passes through the center of Earth between the North and South Poles on which Earth rotates

bar scale a graphic that compares the distance on a map to the distance it represents

basin land drained by a river

bay a portion of the ocean that is partly enclosed by land

biome a large area or environment that shares the same general climate of temperature and rainfall. Different biomes support different types of plants and animals.

borough any of the five political divisions of New York City

British Isles a group of islands in northwestern Europe

Canadian Shield U-shaped region of ancient rock that curves around the Hudson Bay; southern part of shield is thick with forests; northern part is tundra

canal a channel that is dug across land to connect bodies of water

canyon a deep, narrow river valley with steep sides

Glossary

- cape** a point of land that extends into a sea or ocean
- capital** a city in a country or state where the government is based
- Capitol** the building in Washington, D.C., occupied by the Congress of the U.S.
- cardinal directions** north, south, east, and west (N, S, E, and W)
- Caribbean Islands** island nations and territories that border the Caribbean Sea; also called Greater Antilles and Lesser Antilles
- census** an official count of all the people living in a country or district
- Central America** a region of seven countries between Mexico and South America
- channel** a body of water joining two larger bodies of water
- city planner** a person who advises local governments on ways to improve the community
- civil war** war between states within the same nation
- climate** usual weather in a particular place over a period of time
- climate zone** a region in which usual weather patterns occur over time
- coal** a black mineral formed from the remains of ancient plants
- commercial area** an area where businesses and stores are found
- community services** public places that provide for the needs of a community such as schools, hospitals, police stations, and parks
- compass rose** a symbol that shows directions on a map

Glossary

Confederate States of America (the South) league of southern states that seceded from the U.S.

continent one of the seven large landmasses of the Earth: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America

coordinates the latitude and longitude address of a place on a map

crude oil yellow-to-black oil as it occurs naturally in a reservoir

cultural landmark a place selected and pointed out as having great historical or cultural importance.

cultural map a map that shows patterns of ethnic groups, religious practices, languages spoken, educational levels, and recreational choices

culture language, beliefs, traditions, arts and crafts, political systems, and technologies of a group of people

dam a strong barrier built across a stream or river to hold back water

daylight saving time a plan in which clocks are set one hour ahead of standard time for a specific period of time

degrees units of latitude or longitude; ($^{\circ}$ is the symbol for degrees)

desert a dry area with little or no rainfall

District of Columbia (D.C.) an area of land controlled by the federal government

diverse varied

economy the way a state or country develops, divides up, and uses its money, goods, and services

Glossary

ecosystem a community of animals and plants, interacting with their environment

elevation height of the land above sea level

ellipse oval-shaped, park-like area

equator an imaginary line that runs around the center of Earth, halfway between the North and South Poles at 0° latitude

ethnic to do with a group of people sharing the same national origins, language, or culture

Eurasia landmass made up of the continents of Asia and Europe

everglade an area of swampy land with tall grasses and many slow streams

forest a large area thickly covered with trees and plants

geographic grid the intersecting pattern formed by the lines of latitude and longitude

geopolitical map shows political and physical features on one map

geyser a hot spring that intermittently shoots up a jet of hot water or steam into the air

Great Lakes five freshwater lakes—Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario—that form an important inland waterway in North America

grid a pattern of lines that form squares

gulf a large area of ocean partly surrounded by land

harbor a sheltered body of water where ships anchor

hemisphere half of the Earth

Glossary

highway interchange a place where major roads meet or join

history map a map that shows places or events from the past

hot spring a spring of water that is hotter than the temperature of the human body (98.6°F)

index an alphabetical listing of place names on a map and the grid squares in which they are found

industrial area an area where factories are found

inset map a smaller map set within the border of a larger one

intermediate directions northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest (NE, SE, SW, and NW)

international border border between countries

interstate highway a major public road that is part of a nationwide highway system; the interstate highway system was created after the U.S. highway system

irrigation a process of bringing a supply of water to crops by artificial means

isthmus narrow strip of land having water on each side and connecting two larger bodies of land

lake a large body of fresh water surrounded by land

landfill site a large area where garbage is buried

landform natural land feature on Earth's surface, such as mountain or hill

legend (key) a list that explains the symbols on a map

Glossary

lines of latitude (parallels) imaginary lines on the Earth that run parallel to the equator

lines of longitude (meridians) imaginary lines that run between the North and South Poles

livestock animals raised on a farm or ranch

lock a part of a canal with gates at each end where ships are raised or lowered to different water levels

mall a shaded public walk; park-like area

map sketch a rough drawing of a mental map

memorial something built to honor a person or an event such as a monument or a statue

mental map a map that a person pictures in his mind

mountain range a chain of mountains

mouth the part of the river where it empties into another body of water

national park an area set aside by a nation's government to protect natural beauty, wildlife, or other remarkable features

natural resources materials supplied by nature that are useful or necessary for life

North Pole the point north on Earth where the lines of longitude meet (90°N latitude)

ocean the great body of salt water that covers almost three-fourths of Earth's surface; any of its five main divisions—the Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific, or Southern Oceans

Glossary

parallel lines lines that are the same distance apart; lines that never meet or cross

peninsula land that is surrounded by water on three sides

petroleum another name for oil

physical features natural landforms and waterways on Earth's surface

physical map a map that shows natural landforms and water on Earth's surface

plains a large, flat area of land

plateau an area of high, flat land

polar projection used for mapping hemispheres instead of the whole Earth; shows accurate distance and direction, but shape and size of area are distorted toward the edges

political map a map that shows human-made features and boundaries such as cities, highways, and countries

population total number of people who live in a place

port a harbor where ships can dock or anchor safely

precipitation rain, snow, sleet, hail, or drizzle

prime meridian an imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole at 0° longitude

product something that is made by a natural process

projection a system for mapping the round Earth on a flat surface

province one of the main administrative divisions of a country

Glossary

rainforest a dense, tropical forest where a lot of rain falls

region an area of land that is different from other areas due to its physical features, climate, people, or industries

relative location description of a place using the relation of one place to another

residential area an area where people's homes are found

Rio Spanish for river

river a large natural stream of fresh water that flows into a lake or an ocean

road map a map for motorists that shows the highways in an area

route a road or course for traveling from one place to another

scale the ratio between the measurements on a map and the actual measurements, as in one inch represents 100 miles

sea a large body of salt water wholly or partially enclosed by land

seaway a route by sea

secede to formally withdraw from a group or an organization

shield a land region formed by ancient rock

sound a long, wide body of water, larger than a strait or channel

source the place where a river starts

South Pole the point south on Earth where the lines of longitude meet (90°S latitude)

standard time zone a region in which the same time is used

Glossary

strait a narrow channel connecting two bodies of water

temperate climate a climate without extremes of either cold or heat

territory a region of a country not admitted as a state or province but having its own legislature and governor

time zone a region in which the same time is used; Earth is divided into 24 time zones

tourist map a map that shows places of interest for people traveling for pleasure

tributary a stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river

tropical climate a climate of heat and rain

tundra an arctic plain that remains frozen except for the ground just at the surface. Mosses and small shrubs are the only kinds of plants that grow there.

Union (the North) states that remained loyal to the federal government during the U.S. Civil War

United Kingdom European country consisting of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales

U.S. highway a major public road that is part of a nationwide highway system; the U.S. highway system was created before the interstate highway system

valley an area of low ground between two hills

volcanic mountain a mountain formed by molten lava and ash

weather conditions in the Earth's atmosphere at a certain place and time