

Project glossary

Geography vocabulary

agriculture

The practice of farming, including growing crops and rearing animals.

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allotment

A small piece of land that individuals can rent to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers.

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arable farming

Growing crops, such as cereals and vegetables.

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biome

A large ecosystem that has characteristic features, such as the climate and landscape. Example biomes include desert, grassland, forest, tundra and aquatic.

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carbon footprint

The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere by one individual, one process or one company.

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climate

The usual weather conditions that occur in a place over a long period.

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climate change

The long-term change in expected weather patterns that contributes to the melting of polar ice caps, rising sea levels and extreme weather.

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climate zone

An area with a distinct climate.

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contour line

A line on a map joining points of equal height above sea level.

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cultivate

To prepare and use land for crops or gardening.

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desert zone

An area with very little rainfall and large temperature differences between night and day, and summer and winter.

fertiliser

A natural or chemical substance that is spread on the land or given to plants to make them grow successfully.

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food miles

The distance food travels between where it is produced and where it is consumed.

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greenhouse gas

A gas, such as carbon dioxide, that traps heat in the Earth’s atmosphere contributing to global warming.

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irrigation

The supply of water through channels to land or crops to help growth.

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Mediterranean zone

An area with mild, wet winters and hot, dry summers.

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mixed farming

Growing crops and rearing animals.

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monoculture

The growing of a single crop in a given area.

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mountain zone

An area with a changeable climate that becomes colder and wetter as the elevation increases.

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pastoral farming

Rearing animals, such as cows and sheep.

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pesticide

A chemical substance used to kill animals and plants that are harmful to crops.

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polar zone

A cold, dry area with long, dark winters.

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seasonality

The time of year when the harvest or flavour of a type of food is at its best.

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temperate zone

An area with warm summers, cool winters and year-round precipitation.

topography

The physical appearance of the natural features of an area of land, especially the shape of its surface.

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tropical zone

An area that is hot and wet with a constant temperature, and a wet season and dry season.

Science vocabulary

adolescent

A stage in the life cycle of a mammal, bird or amphibian.

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adult

A stage in the life cycle of all vertebrates.

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amphibian

A cold-blooded vertebrate that lives on land and in water.

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anther

The male part of a flower where pollen grains are made.

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apex predator

An animal at the end of a food chain that is not eaten by any other animal.

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asexual reproduction

A reproduction process that involves only one parent plant and produces identical versions of themselves.

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bird

A warm-blooded vertebrate with feathers, wings and a beak.

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bulb

A plant asexual reproductive structure like a swollen stem that contains a tiny plant and a store of food, such as a tulip bulb.

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carpel

A flower's female reproductive organ.

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corm

A plant asexual reproductive structure like a short, upright underground stem that stores food, such as a crocus corm.

egg

An oval or round object laid by a female bird, reptile, amphibian, fish or invertebrate, usually containing a developing embryo.

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embryo

An animal that is developing inside its mother or in an egg; or a plant that is developing in a seed.

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filament

A male part of a flower that supports an anther.

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food chain

A diagram that shows how food energy is transferred from one living thing to another.

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food web

A diagram that shows how food chains in an ecosystem link together.

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insect

An invertebrate with six legs and a body divided into three parts: a head, thorax and abdomen.

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juvenile

A stage in the mammalian life cycle between embryo and adolescent.

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larva

A stage in an insect and amphibian’s life cycle where the young has left its egg but has not yet developed into a pupa or adult insect or animal.

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life cycle

A series of changes that happen during the life of a living thing.

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mammal

A vertebrate animal that is warm blooded, gives birth to live young, has fur or hair and breathes air with lungs. Females produce milk to feed their offspring.

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metamorphosis

The process of an insect or amphibian changing from its larval form to its adult form.

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ovary

A female part of a plant that contains ovules.

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ovule

A female structure in a plant ovary that develops into a seed when fertilised.

petal

A part of a flower that is brightly coloured and scented to attract insects.

primary consumer

An animal that eats a producer.

producer

A living thing that makes its own food for energy, such as a plant.

pupa

A stage in an insect’s life cycle between larva and adult when the larva is contained in a hard protective covering. The insect transforms to its adult form during this stage.

rhizome

A plant asexual reproductive structure like a stem that grows horizontally underground, such as in a ginger plant.

runner

A plant asexual reproductive structure that runs along the ground, such as in a strawberry plant.

secondary consumer

An animal that eats a primary consumer.

seed

A plant reproductive structure that is like a small, hard grain from which a new plant will grow if the conditions are right for germination, such as a bean seed.

sepal

A green, leaf-shaped part of a plant that protects a developing flower.

sexual reproduction

In plants, the process where pollen is transferred from one parent plant to another to create seeds that grow into a new plant that is different from the parent plants.

stigma

A part of the female carpel structure in a plant where pollen is received.

style

A part of the female carpel structure in a plant that connects the ovary to the stigma.

tertiary consumer

An animal that eats a secondary consumer.

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tuber

A plant asexual reproductive structure that is like a swollen underground root, such as a seed potato.