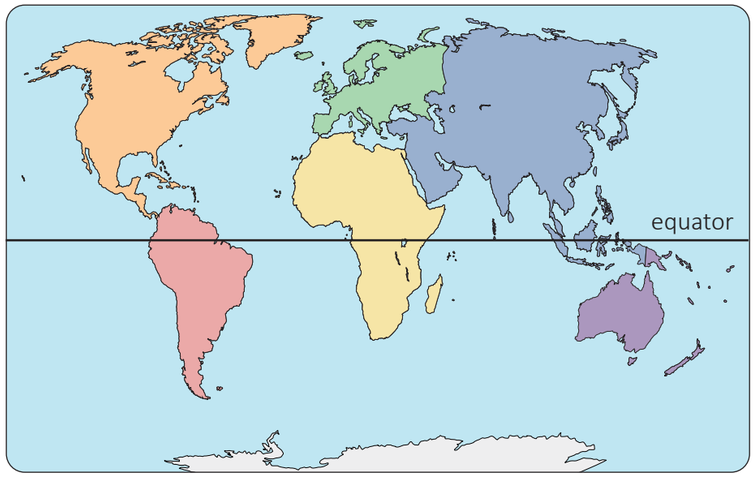
One Planet, Our World

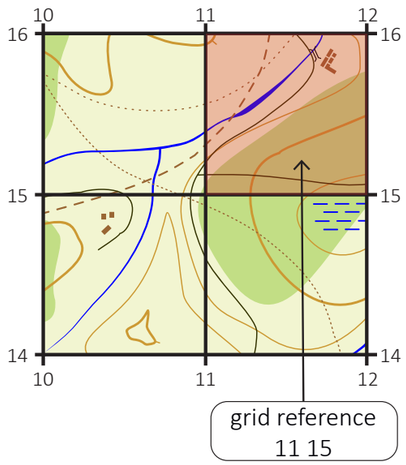
Using maps

Maps, atlases and globes show the continents and countries of the world. Maps show the shape and size of each country as well as its borders and distance from the equator. Most countries have a capital city, which is their most important city.



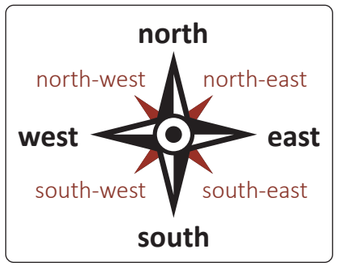
Four-figure grid references

Four-figure grid references are used to locate a grid square on a map. To find a four-figure grid reference, you follow the horizontal axis, called the easting, from west to east, and then the vertical axis, called the northing, from south to north, until they meet at the bottom left-hand corner of the square you want to reference. The easting followed by the northing makes a four-figure grid reference.



Compass points

There are eight points on a compass. There are four cardinal points: north, south, east and west. There are four intercardinal points: north-east, north-west, south-east and south-west.



Counties of the United Kingdom

The countries of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are divided into counties. Counties in the United Kingdom include Yorkshire, Suffolk, Pembrokeshire, Inverness-shire and County Armagh. Counties are governed by local governments and have unique physical and human characteristics.

County Armagh is famous for its orchards and St Patrick's Cathedral.

Suffolk is famous for its beaches and port at Ipswich.

Physical and human features

Physical features are natural and include cliffs, mountains and beaches. Human features have been made by people and include houses, bridges and roads. There are many physical and human features in the United Kingdom.

cliff

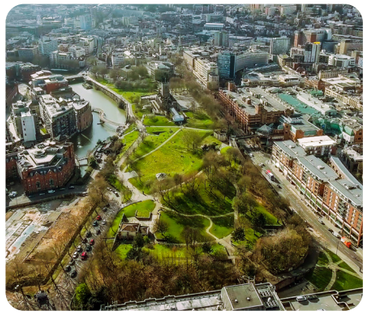
bridge

Land use

There are five main types of land use. These are:

- **agricultural** land, which is used for farming
- **commercial** land, which is used for shops and businesses
- **recreational** land, which is used for leisure activities
- **residential** land, which is used for housing
- **transportation**, including roads, airports and railways.

Rural areas are mainly used for agriculture and recreation.



Urban areas are mainly used for commercial and residential reasons and for transportation.

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Climate zones

There are five major climate zones on Earth.

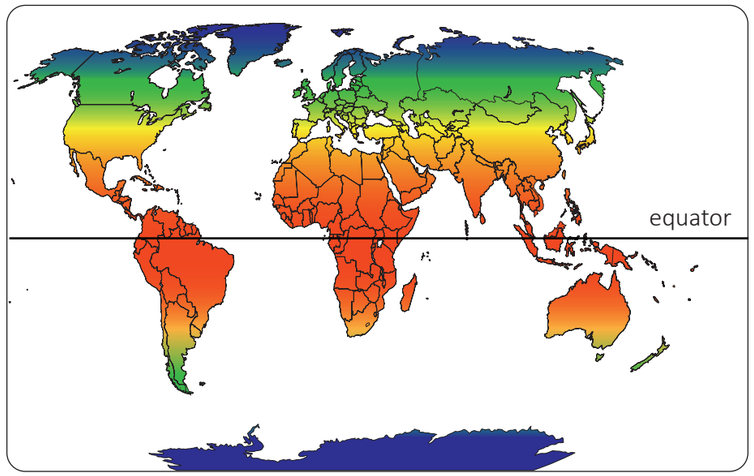
The **polar zone** is the coldest.

The **temperate zone** has warm summers and cool winters.

The **Mediterranean zone** has hot summers and mild winters.

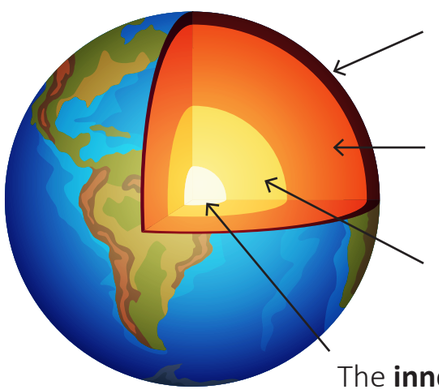
The **desert zone** is the hottest.

The **tropical zone** is hot and wet all year round.



Earth's layers

The Earth is made of four layers.



The **crust** is an outer layer of solid rock.

The **mantle** is a layer of solid and semi-molten rock.

The **outer core** is molten metal.

The **inner core** is solid metal.

Latitude and longitude

Lines of latitude are imaginary horizontal lines that span the globe. Lines of longitude are imaginary vertical lines that span the globe. Lines of latitude and longitude tells us how far north, south, east or west a location is.

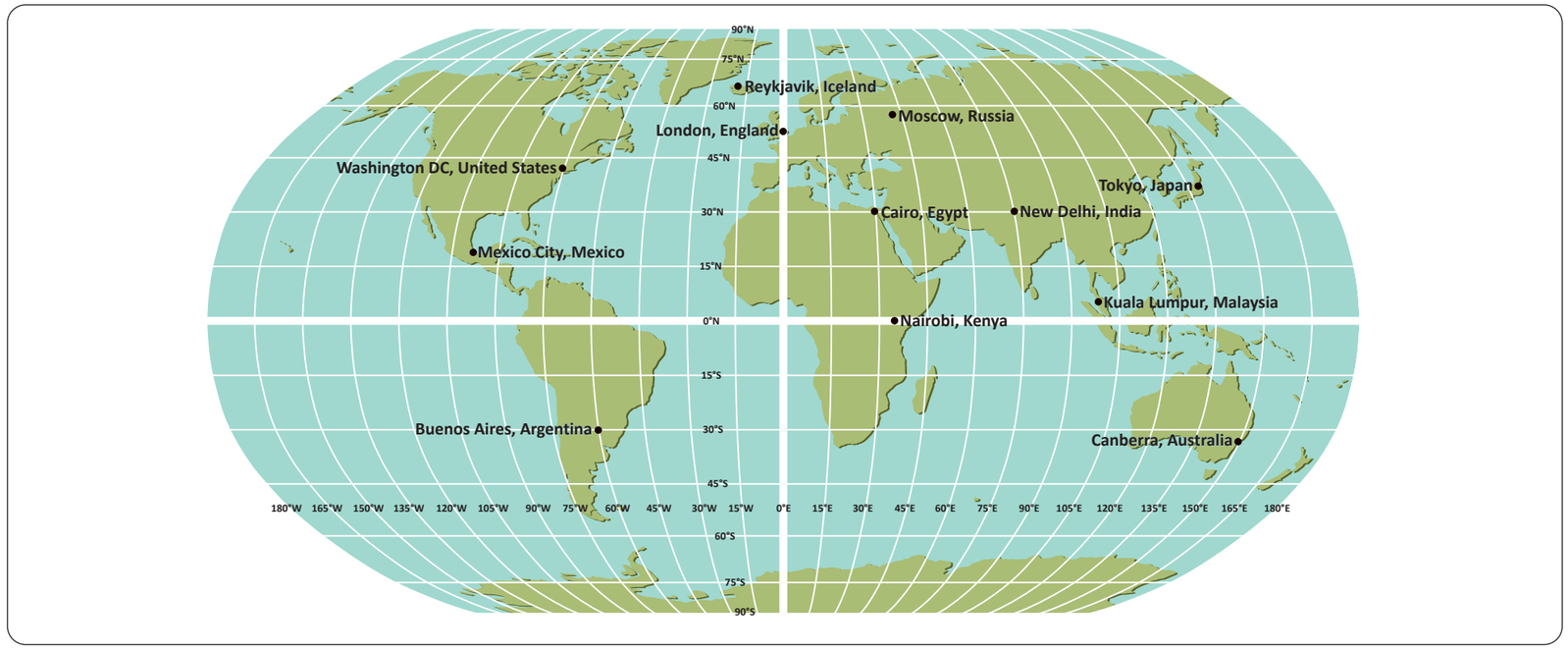
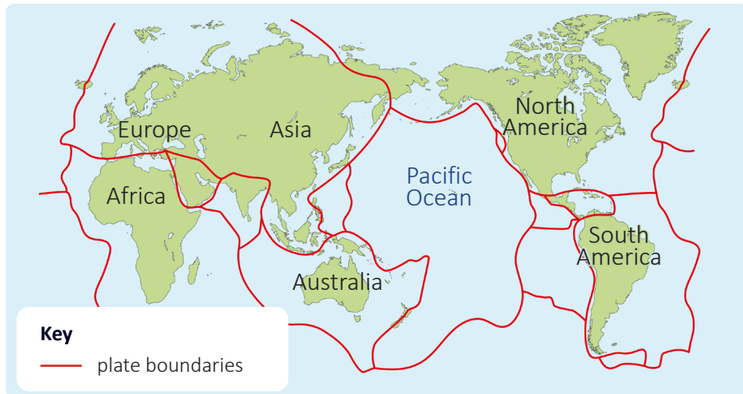


Plate tectonics

The Earth's crust is made of tectonic plates, which move slowly over the mantle. They push together to form mountains, pull apart to form valleys and slide past each other to create earthquakes and faults. The movement of the tectonic plates created the continents from one large landmass called Pangaea millions of years ago.



Glossary

climate	The general weather conditions found in a place over a period of time.
county	An area of the United Kingdom that a local government manages.
fault	A large crack in the ground.
molten	Something that has melted and is in a liquid state.
plate boundary	The place where two tectonic plates meet.
tectonic plate	A large, slow-moving piece of rock that makes up the Earth's crust.

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