

# Geography Dictionary



The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together – Barack Obama



## A

**Absorb-** soak up or take in

**Aerial view** – a view from above

**Agriculture-** farming and the methods that are used to raise and look after crops and animals

**Arable-** farming that involves growing crops such as wheat and barley rather than keeping animals or growing fruit and vegetables.

**Architecture-** planning, designing, and constructing buildings.

**Arctic-** the area of the world around the North Pole. It is extremely cold and there is very little light in winter and very little darkness in summer

**Atlas-** a book of maps

**Atmosphere-** the layer of air or other gases around a planet

## B

**Barren-** A barren landscape is dry and bare, and has very few plants and no trees.

**Beach** – an area of sand or stones beyond the sea

**Biome-** a natural area of the living world which has its own climate, vegetation and animals



# C

**Canyon-** a long, narrow valley with very steep sides

**City-** a large town. London is a city.

**Cliff-** a high area of land with a very steep side, especially one next to the sea

**Climate-** the general weather conditions that are typical of a place coastal an area of land close to the sea

**Climate Change-** changes in the earth's climate, especially the gradual rise in temperature, as a result of human activity

**Climate Zone-** sections of the Earth that are divided according to the climate. There are three main climate zones; polar, temperate and tropical.

**Coast-** an area of land that is 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

**Condensation-** small drops of water which form when water vapour or steam touches a cold surface, such as a window

**Confluence-** where two rivers join and become a larger river

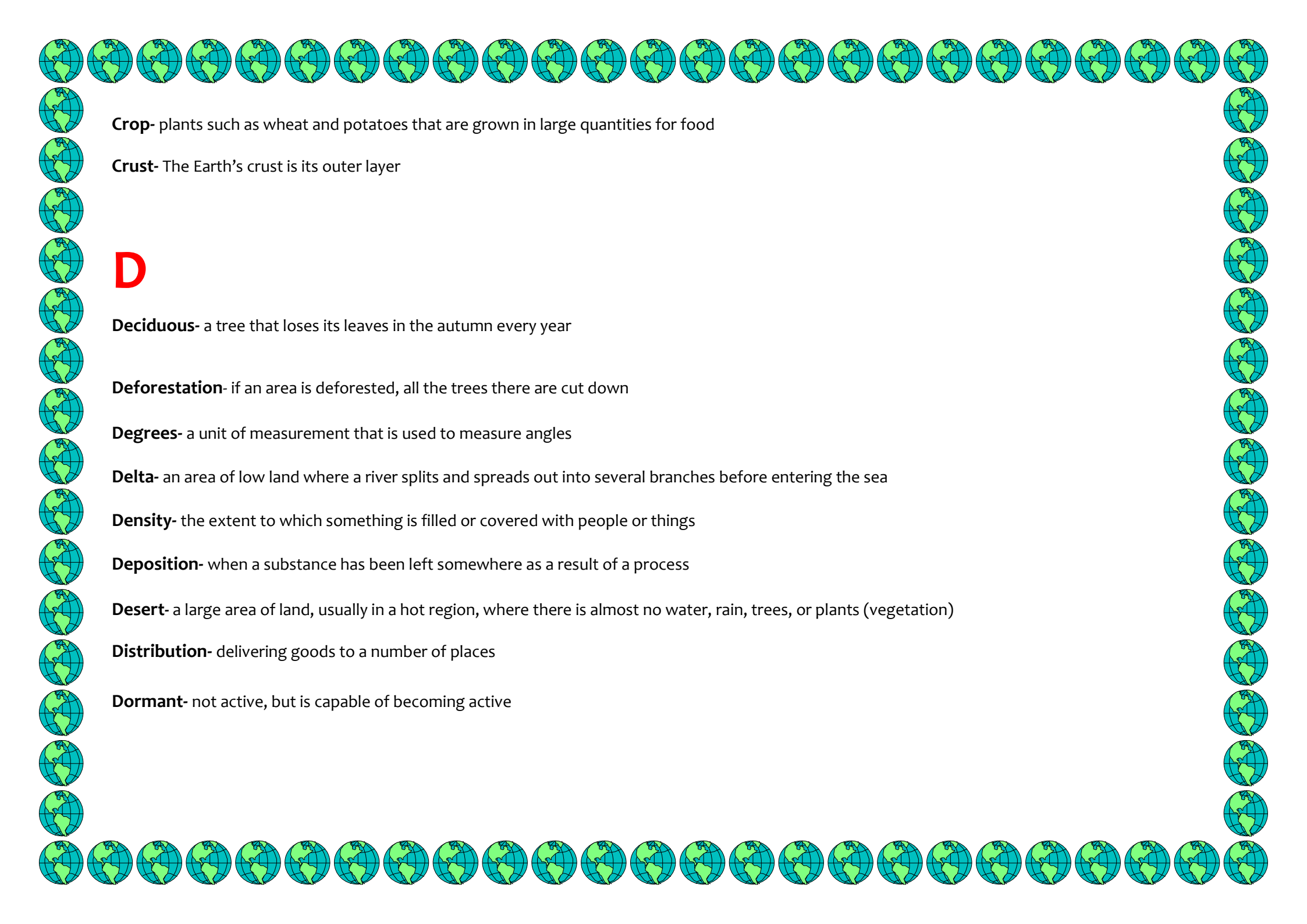
**Continent-** a very large area of land that consists of many countries. Europe is a continent.

**Core-** the central part of the earth, beneath the mantle

**County-** region of Britain or Ireland which has its own local government. Burton upon Trent is in the county of Staffordshire.

**Country-** an area of land that is controlled by its own government.

**Course-** the channel along which the river flows



**Crop-** plants such as wheat and potatoes that are grown in large quantities for food

**Crust-** The Earth's crust is its outer layer

## D

**Deciduous-** a tree that loses its leaves in the autumn every year

**Deforestation-** if an area is deforested, all the trees there are cut down

**Degrees-** a unit of measurement that is used to measure angles

**Delta-** an area of low land where a river splits and spreads out into several branches before entering the sea

**Density-** the extent to which something is filled or covered with people or things

**Deposition-** when a substance has been left somewhere as a result of a process

**Desert-** a large area of land, usually in a hot region, where there is almost no water, rain, trees, or plants (vegetation)

**Distribution-** delivering goods to a number of places

**Dormant-** not active, but is capable of becoming active



# E

**Earthquake-** a shaking of the ground caused by movement of the Earth's crust

**Elevation-** The elevation of a place is its height above sea level

**Empire-** a number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country

**England-** a country in the United Kingdom. Burton upon Trent is a town in England.

**Environment-** all the circumstances, people, things, and events around them that influence their life

**Equator** - an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth at an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole.

**Erosion-** the gradual destruction and removal of rock or soil in a particular area by rivers, the sea, or the weather

**Erupt-** When a volcano erupts, it throws out a lot of hot, melted rock called lava, as well as ash and steam

**Estuary-** the wide part of a river where it joins the sea

**Evaporation-** to turn from liquid into gas; pass away in the form of vapour.

**Evergreen-** a tree or bush which has green leaves all the year round

**Export-** goods that are sold to other countries



## F

**Factory-** where goods are made in high quantity

**Farm-** an area of land used to produce crops or to breed animals and livestock.

**Farming-** the activity of growing crops or keeping animals on a farm

**Fertile-** rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants

**Fault lines-** a long crack in the surface of the earth. Earthquakes usually occur along fault lines

**Flag-** a piece of cloth which can be attached to a pole and which is used as symbol of a particular country

**Floor Plan** - the layout of rooms on one floor of a building

**Forest-** a large area where trees grow close together

**Form-** move or arrange

**Frozen-** when something has become a solid because of low temperatures

## G

**Gas-** something that is neither liquid nor solid. A gas rapidly spreads out when it is warmed and contracts when it is cooled.

**Global-** something that happens in all parts of the world or affects all parts of the world

**Globe-** a ball shaped object with a map of the world on it



**Grasslands-** a large area covered by wild grass

**Great Britain-** An island that is made up of England, Scotland and Wales.

**Greenwich-** borough of Greater London, England, located on the prime meridian

**Grounds-** the land around a building

**Groundwater-** water that is found under the ground. Groundwater has usually passed down through the soil and become trapped by rocks.

## H

**Habitat-** the natural environment in which an animal or plant normally lives or grows

**Harbour-** a sheltered port so that boats can be left there safely

**Harsh-** Harsh climates or conditions are very difficult for people, animals, and plants to live in

**Hill-** a naturally raised area of land, which is not as high as a mountain

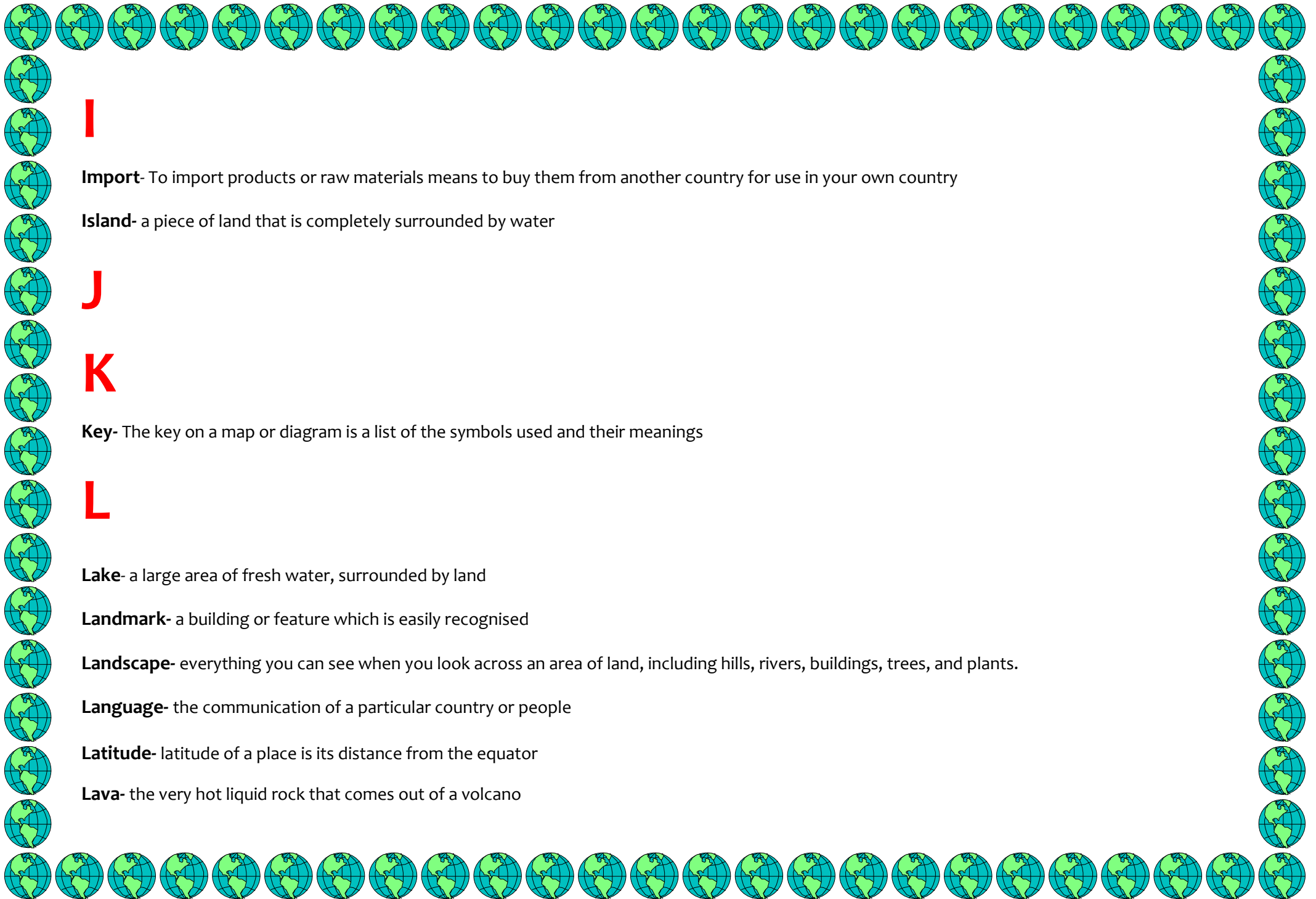
**Holiday-** a period of time during which you relax

**Hotel-** a place that provides somewhere to sleep and eat for guests.

**House-** a building designed for people to live in.

**Human features-** features of land that have been impacted by human activity

**Humid-** a dry and warm climate



## I

**Import-** To import products or raw materials means to buy them from another country for use in your own country

**Island-** a piece of land that is completely surrounded by water

## J

## K

**Key-** The key on a map or diagram is a list of the symbols used and their meanings

## L

**Lake-** a large area of fresh water, surrounded by land

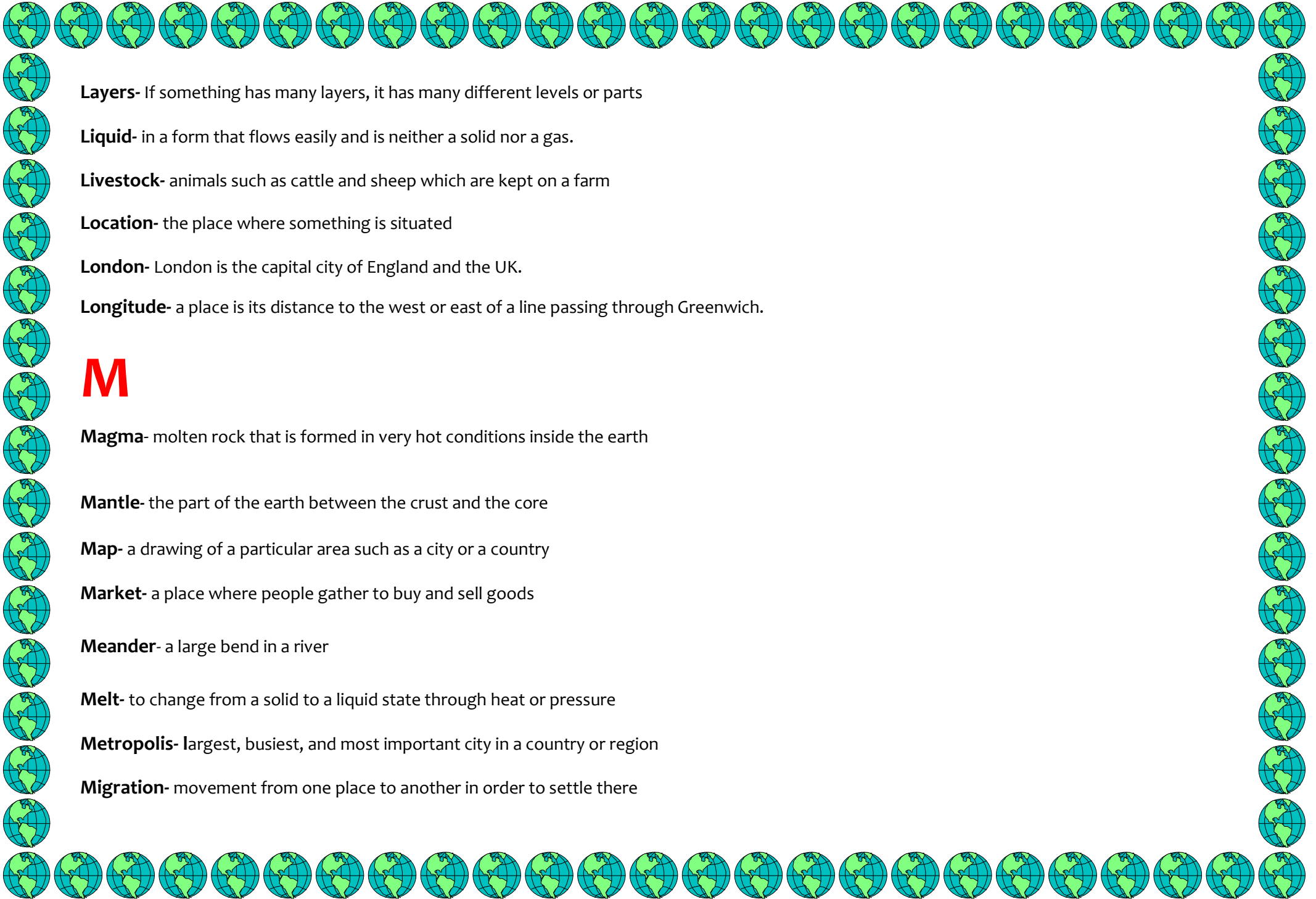
**Landmark-** a building or feature which is easily recognised

**Landscape-** everything you can see when you look across an area of land, including hills, rivers, buildings, trees, and plants.

**Language-** the communication of a particular country or people

**Latitude-** latitude of a place is its distance from the equator

**Lava-** the very hot liquid rock that comes out of a volcano



**Layers-** If something has many layers, it has many different levels or parts

**Liquid-** in a form that flows easily and is neither a solid nor a gas.

**Livestock-** animals such as cattle and sheep which are kept on a farm

**Location-** the place where something is situated

**London-** London is the capital city of England and the UK.

**Longitude-** a place is its distance to the west or east of a line passing through Greenwich.

## M

**Magma-** molten rock that is formed in very hot conditions inside the earth

**Mantle-** the part of the earth between the crust and the core

**Map-** a drawing of a particular area such as a city or a country

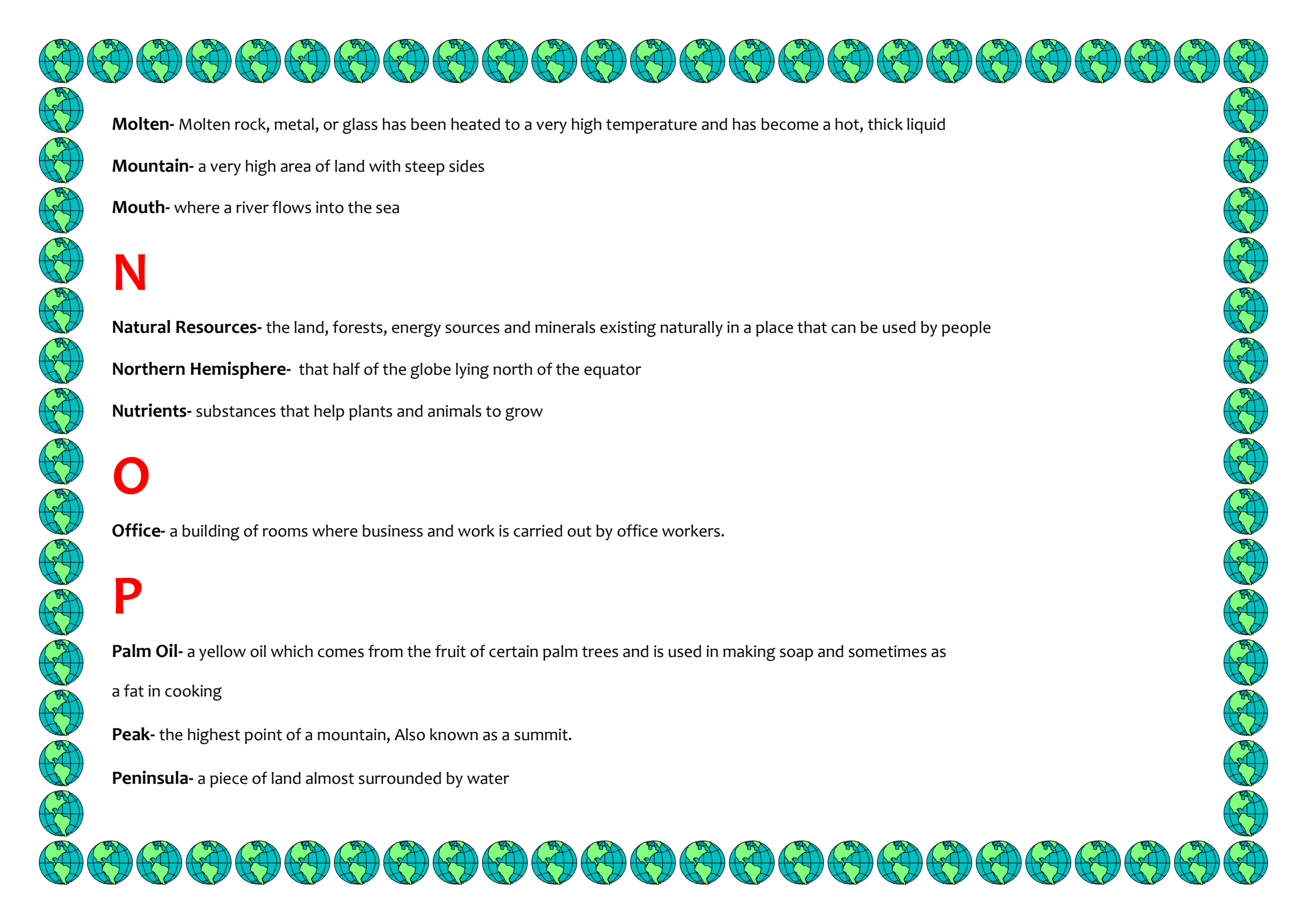
**Market-** a place where people gather to buy and sell goods

**Meander-** a large bend in a river

**Melt-** to change from a solid to a liquid state through heat or pressure

**Metropolis-** largest, busiest, and most important city in a country or region

**Migration-** movement from one place to another in order to settle there



**Molten-** Molten rock, metal, or glass has been heated to a very high temperature and has become a hot, thick liquid

**Mountain-** a very high area of land with steep sides

**Mouth-** where a river flows into the sea

## N

**Natural Resources-** the land, forests, energy sources and minerals existing naturally in a place that can be used by people

**Northern Hemisphere-** that half of the globe lying north of the equator

**Nutrients-** substances that help plants and animals to grow

## O

**Office-** a building of rooms where business and work is carried out by office workers.

## P

**Palm Oil-** a yellow oil which comes from the fruit of certain palm trees and is used in making soap and sometimes as a fat in cooking

**Peak-** the highest point of a mountain, Also known as a summit.

**Peninsula-** a piece of land almost surrounded by water



**Permafrost**- land that is permanently frozen to a great depth

**Permanent**- Something that is permanent lasts for ever

**Physical features**- natural features of land port a harbour area where ships load and unload goods or passengers

**Plain**- a large flat area of land with very few trees on it

**Polar**- Near the North or South Poles

**Poles**- the two opposite ends of Earth at its most northern and southern points

**Pollution**- the process of polluting water, air, or land, especially with poisonous chemicals

**Port**- a harbour area where ships load and unload goods or passengers

**Precipitation**- rain, snow, sleet, dew, etc, formed by condensation of water vapour in the atmosphere

**Pressure**- force that you produce when you press hard on something

**Prime Meridian**- prime meridian is the line of longitude, corresponding to zero degrees and passing through Greenwich, England, from which all the other lines of longitude are calculated.

**Q**

A decorative border of small globe icons surrounds the text. The top border consists of 25 globes, the bottom of 25, the left side of 12, and the right side of 12. Each globe shows the Americas in green and blue oceans.

## R

**Rainfall-** the amount of rain that falls within a time period

**Rainforest-** a thick forest of tall trees found in tropical areas

**Range-** a range of mountains or hills is a line of them

**River-** a large, natural stream of fresh water that flows into the sea or a lake.

**Route-** a way from one place to another

**Run-off-** rain in excess of the amount absorbed by the ground

**Rural-** places that are far away from large towns or cities

## S


**Sea-** a large area of salty water that is part of an ocean

**Season-** the main times of year which can be divided and which have their own typical weather

**Sedimentary-** solid material that settles at the bottom of a liquid, especially earth and pieces of rock that have been carried along and then left somewhere by water, ice, or wind

**Shop-** a building in which goods are sold. For example, supermarkets, clothes shops and toy shops.

**Skyscrapers-** a very tall building with many floors



**Southern Hemisphere-** that half of the globe lying south of the equator

**Spring-** a natural outflow of ground water

**Stream-** a small, narrow river

**Summit-** the highest point of a mountain, Also known as a peak.

**Supply Chain-** the entire process of making and selling goods, including every stage from the supply of materials and the manufacture of the goods through to their distribution and sale

**Surface-** the flat top part of something or the outside of it

**Surrounded-** to be present all around.

**Sustain-** continue or maintain something for a period of time

**Sustainability-** to maintain at a steady level without exhausting natural resources or causing severe environmental damage

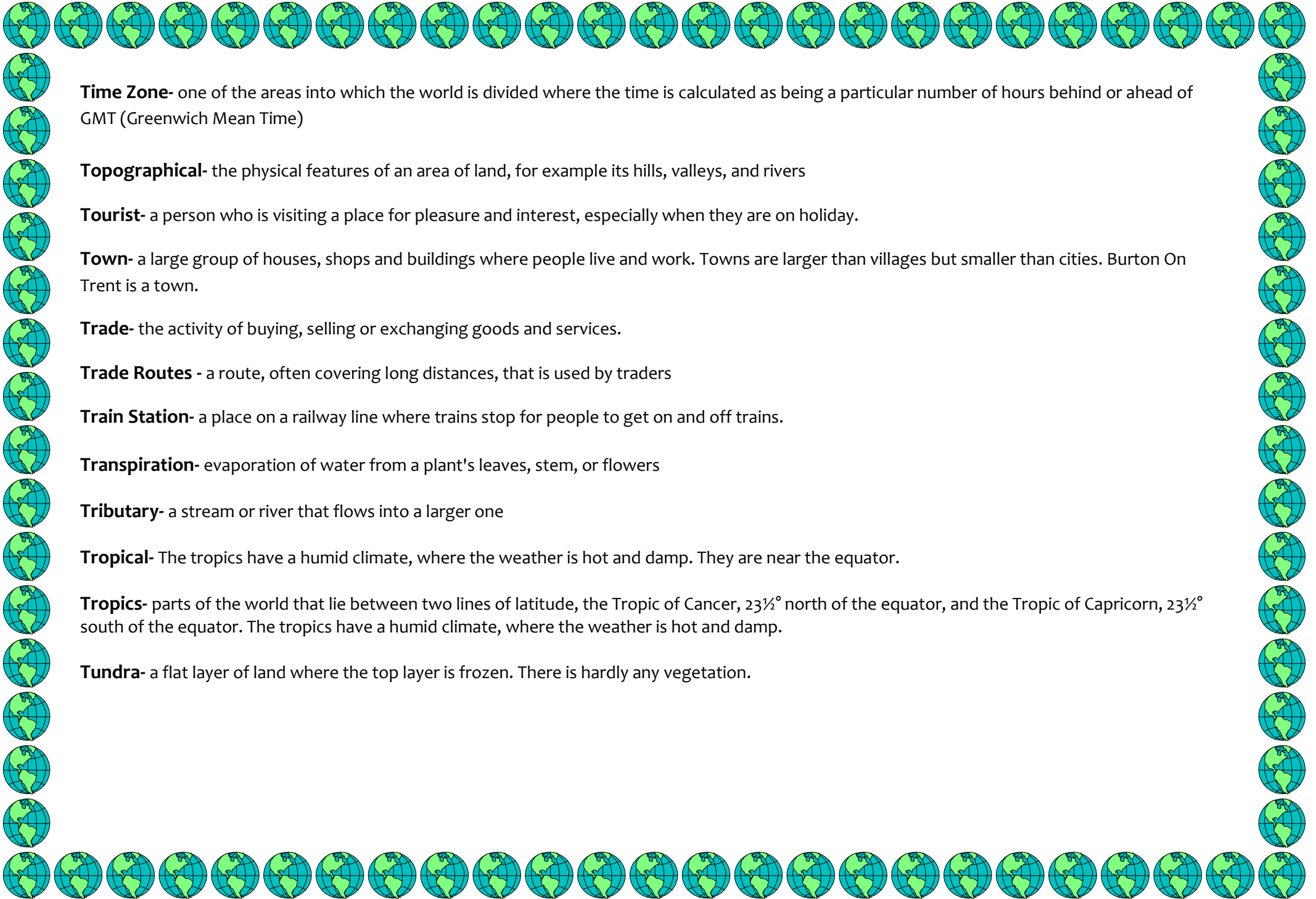
**T**

**Tectonic-** relating to the structure of the Earth's surface or crust.

**Tectonic plates-** any of the several segments of the Earth's crust that move

**Temperate-** a place which is never extremely hot or extremely cold

**Temperature-** a measure of how hot or cold something is



**Time Zone**- one of the areas into which the world is divided where the time is calculated as being a particular number of hours behind or ahead of GMT (Greenwich Mean Time)

**Topographical**- the physical features of an area of land, for example its hills, valleys, and rivers

**Tourist**- a person who is visiting a place for pleasure and interest, especially when they are on holiday.

**Town**- a large group of houses, shops and buildings where people live and work. Towns are larger than villages but smaller than cities. Burton On Trent is a town.

**Trade**- the activity of buying, selling or exchanging goods and services.

**Trade Routes** - a route, often covering long distances, that is used by traders

**Train Station**- a place on a railway line where trains stop for people to get on and off trains.

**Transpiration**- evaporation of water from a plant's leaves, stem, or flowers

**Tributary**- a stream or river that flows into a larger one

**Tropical**- The tropics have a humid climate, where the weather is hot and damp. They are near the equator.

**Tropics**- parts of the world that lie between two lines of latitude, the Tropic of Cancer,  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  north of the equator, and the Tropic of Capricorn,  $23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  south of the equator. The tropics have a humid climate, where the weather is hot and damp.

**Tundra**- a flat layer of land where the top layer is frozen. There is hardly any vegetation.



## U

**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.

**Urban-** belonging to, or relating to, a town or city

## V

**Vegetation-** plants, trees or flowers  
**village-** a small group of houses, perhaps with a few shops.

**Vent-** the part of a volcano through which lava and gases erupt

**Volcano-** an opening in the Earth's crust where red-hot rocks and gas break to the surface from underground.

**Village-** a small group of houses, perhaps with a few shops, that are often in the countryside. Repton is a village.

## W

**Waterfall-** a place where water flows over the edge of a steep, high cliff in hills or mountains, and falls into a pool below

**Water Vapour-** water in the gaseous state, especially when due to evaporation at a temperature below the boiling point

**Weather-** what the sky and air outside are like, such as cold or sunny

**Wild-** animals or plants that live or grow in natural surroundings and are not looked after by people