

# GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

## S5 GLOSSARY

<b>Abrasion</b>	Erosion caused by the rubbing and scouring effect of material carried by rivers, glaciers, waves and the wind.
<b>Acid rain</b>	Rainwater containing chemicals that result from the burning of fossil fuels.
<b>Ageing population</b>	The increase in the number of elderly people.
<b>Aquifer</b>	A rock capable of either storing water or transferring it to another place.
<b>Arch</b>	A coastal feature formed when waves erode through a small headland.
<b>Arête</b>	A narrow, knife-edged ridge formed by glacial erosion when two adjacent cirques erode towards each other.
<b>Attrition</b>	Erosion caused when rocks and boulders, transported by rivers and waves, bump into each other and break into smaller pieces.
<b>Biological weathering</b>	The breakdown of rock through the actions of plants and animals.
<b>Birth rate</b>	The number of live births per 1000 people per year.
<b>Brown earth soil</b>	A soil typical of deciduous forests in temperate latitudes.
<b>Burgess model</b>	An urban land use model showing five concentric zones, based upon age of houses and wealth of their inhabitants.
<b>Chemical weathering</b>	The decomposition of rock caused by a chemical change within that rock.
<b>Cirque (corrie)</b>	A deep, steep-sided, rounded or semi-circular hollow, often with a lake, found in glaciated highlands.
<b>Coastal management</b>	The protection of the coastline and its wildlife, the improvement in the quality of life of local residents and the provision of recreational facilities for visitors.
<b>Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)</b>	The system of agricultural support adopted by the European Union for member states.
<b>Corrasion</b>	Erosion caused by the rubbing and scouring effect of material carried by rivers, glaciers, waves and wind.
<b>Counterurbanisation</b>	The movement of people and employment away from large cities to smaller settlements within more rural areas.
<b>Death rate</b>	The number of deaths per 1000 people per year.
<b>Delta</b>	An area of silt deposited by a river where it enters the sea or lake.
<b>Demographic transition model</b>	A model that tries to show how changes in birth and death rates over a period of time may be related to different stages of economic development.
<b>Dependency ratio</b>	The ratio between those in the non-economically active age group (taken to be children under 15 and adults over 65) and those in the economically active age group (15 to 64).
<b>Deposition</b>	The laying down of material previously transported by mass movement, water, glaciers, waves and the wind.
<b>Development</b>	The level of economic growth of a country or region and the processes of change taking place within it.
<b>Discharge</b>	The volume of water in a river at a given time, usually measured in cumecs (cubic metres per second).
<b>Drainage basin</b>	The area of land drained by a main river and its tributaries.
<b>Drainage density</b>	The total length of all the streams and rivers in a drainage basin divided by the total area of the drainage basin.
<b>Drumlin</b>	A smooth, elongated mound of material deposited by a glacier and stream-lined in the direction of ice movement.
<b>Erratic</b>	Large boulder transported by ice and deposited in an area of totally different rock.

<b>Evapotranspiration</b>	The loss of moisture from water surfaces and the soil (evaporation) and vegetation (transpiration).
<b>Exfoliation</b>	A physical weathering process by which, due to extreme changes in temperature, the surface layers of exposed rock peel away.
<b>Favela</b>	A Brazilian term for an informal shanty-type settlement.
<b>Fiord</b>	A long, narrow, steep-sided inlet formed by glaciers and later drowned by a rise in sea-level.
<b>Floodplain</b>	The wide, flat valley floor of a river where silt is deposited during times of flood.
<b>Footloose industry</b>	An industry which, as it is not tied to raw materials, has a free choice of location.
<b>Freeze-thaw weathering</b>	A process of physical weathering by which rock disintegrates due to water in cracks repeatedly freezing and thawing.
<b>Glacial trough</b>	A steep-sided, flat-floored glaciated valley with a characteristic U-shaped.
<b>Global warming</b>	The increase in the world's average temperature, believed to result from the release of carbon dioxide and other gases into the atmosphere by the burning of fossil fuels.
<b>Green Revolution</b>	The introduction of high-yielding varieties (HYVs) of cereals (rice and wheat) into economically less developed countries.
<b>Gross National Product (GNP) per capita</b>	The total value of goods produced and services provided by a country in a year, divided by the total number of people living in that country.
<b>Groundwater</b>	Water stored underground in permeable rocks.
<b>Groyne</b>	An artificial structure running out to sea to limit longshore drift.
<b>Hanging valley</b>	A tributary valley left high above the main valley as its glacier was unable to erode downwards as quickly as the larger glacier in the main valley, and whose river now descends as a waterfall.
<b>Hierarchy</b>	A ranking of settlements or shopping centres according to their size or the services which they provide.
<b>Honeypot</b>	A place of attractive scenery or historic interest which attracts tourists in large numbers.
<b>Hoyt model</b>	An urban land use model showing wedges (sectors), based upon main transport routes and social groupings.
<b>Humus</b>	Organic material found in soil derived from the decomposition of vegetation, dead organisms and animal excreta.
<b>Hydrograph</b>	A graph showing changes in the discharge of a river over a period of time.
<b>Hydrological cycle</b>	The continuous recycling of water between the sea, air and land.
<b>Impermeable rock</b>	A rock that does not let water pass through it.
<b>Infant mortality</b>	The average number of deaths of children under 1 year or age per 1000 live births.
<b>Interlocking spur</b>	One of a series of spurs that project alternatively from the sides of a V-shaped river valley.
<b>Karst</b>	An area of Carboniferous limestone scenery, characterised by underground drainage.
<b>Lag time</b>	The period of time between peak rainfall and peak river discharge.
<b>Leaching</b>	The downward movement, and often loss, of nutrients (minerals) in solution in the soil.
<b>Levée (dyke)</b>	An artificial embankment built to prevent flooding by a river or the sea.
<b>Life expectancy</b>	The average number of years a person born in a particular country might be expected to live.
<b>Literacy rate</b>	The proportion of the total population able to read and write.
<b>Longshore drift</b>	The movement of material along a coast by breaking waves.
<b>Mass movement</b>	The downhill movement of weathered material under gravity.
<b>Meander</b>	The winding course of a river.

<b>Migration</b>	The movement of people (and animals/birds) either within a country or between countries, either voluntary or forced.
<b>Model</b>	A theoretical representation of the real world in which detail and scale are simplified in order to help explain the reality.
<b>Moraine</b>	Material, usually angular, that is transported and later deposited by a glacier.
<b>Mudflow</b>	A rapid form of mass movement consisting mainly of mud and water.
<b>National park</b>	An area set aside for the protection of its scenery, vegetation and wildlife, so that it may be enjoyed by people living and working there at present, by visitors, and by future generations.
<b>Natural increase</b>	The growth in population resulting from an excess of births over deaths.
<b>New town</b>	A well-planned, self-contained settlement complete with housing, employment and services.
<b>Overcultivation</b>	The exhaustion of the soil by growing crops, especially the same crop, on the same piece of land year after year.
<b>Overgrazing</b>	The destruction of the protective vegetation cover by having too many animals grazing upon it.
<b>Ox-bow lake</b>	A crescent-shaped lake formed after a river cuts through the neck of, and later abandons, a former meander.
<b>Permeable rock</b>	A rock that allows water to pass through it.
<b>Physical weathering</b>	The disintegration of rock by mechanical processes without any chemical changes within the rock.
<b>Plucking</b>	A process of glacial erosion by which ice freezes onto weathered rock and, as it moves, pulls pieces of rock with it.
<b>Podsol</b>	A soil type typical of coniferous forests.
<b>Population density</b>	The number of people living within a given area (usually a square kilometre).
<b>Population pyramids/ structure</b>	The proportion of males and females within selected age groups, usually shown as a pyramid.
<b>Porous rock</b>	A rock containing tiny pores through which water can either pass or be stored.
<b>Pyramidal peak (horn)</b>	A triangular-shaped mountain formed by three or more cirques cutting backwards, and with arêtes radiating from the central peak.
<b>Ria</b>	A river valley drowned by a rise in sea-level.
<b>Ribbon lake</b>	A long, narrow lake found on the floor of a glaciated valley.
<b>Runoff</b>	The surface discharge of water derived mainly from excessive rainfall or melting snow.
<b>Rural-urban migration</b>	The movement of people from the countryside to towns and cities where they wish to live permanently.
<b>Saltation</b>	A process of transportation by rivers in which small particles bounce along the bed in a 'leap-frog' movement.
<b>Self-help housing scheme</b>	Groups of people, especially in developing countries, are encouraged to build their own homes using materials provided by the local authority.
<b>Settlement function</b>	The main activity, usually economic or social, of a place.
<b>Settlement pattern</b>	The shape and spacings of individual settlements, usually dispersed, nucleated or linear.
<b>Shanty town</b>	An area of poor-quality housing, lacking in amenities such as water supply, sewerage and electricity, which often develops spontaneously and illegally (as a squatter settlement) in a city in a developing country.
<b>Site</b>	The actual place where a settlement (or farm/factory) is located.
<b>Situation</b>	The location of a settlement in relation to places (physical and human) surrounding it.

<b>Soil</b>	The thin, loose, surface layer of the Earth which provides a habitat for plants and which consists of weathered rock, water, gases (air), living organisms (biota) and decayed plant matter (humus).
<b>Soil creep</b>	The slowest type of downhill movement (mass movement) of soil due to gravity.
<b>Soil erosion</b>	The wearing away and loss of soil due to the action of rain, running water and strong winds, often accelerated by human activity.
<b>Soil profile</b>	A vertical section of soil showing its different layers (horizons).
<b>Spit</b>	A long, narrow accumulation of sand or shingle formed by longshore drift, with one end attached to the land and the other, projecting out to sea, often with a curved (hooked) end.
<b>Stack</b>	An isolated piece of rock detached from the mainland by wave erosion.
<b>Stalactite and stalagmite</b>	Formed by water containing calcium carbonate in solution, evaporating in limestone caverns to leave an icicle-shaped feature hanging from the roof (stalactite) or a more rounded feature on the floor (stalagmite).
<b>Subsistence farming</b>	Where all farm produce is needed by the farmer's family or village, and where there is no surplus for sale.
<b>Swallow hole/sink</b>	A hole in the surface of a limestone area, usually formed by solution, down which a river may disappear.
<b>Traction</b>	A process of transportation by rivers in which material is rolled along the bed.
<b>Transpiration</b>	The loss of moisture from vegetation into the atmosphere.
<b>Truncated spur</b>	A former interlocking spur in a pre-glacial V-shaped valley which, during a later period of glaciation, had its end removed by a glacier.
<b>Urbanisation</b>	The increase in the proportion of people living in towns and cities.
<b>Urban redevelopment</b>	The total clearance of parts of old inner city areas and starting afresh with new houses, especially high-rise flats.
<b>Urban regeneration/renewal</b>	The improvement of old houses and the addition of amenities in an attempt to bring new life to old inner city areas.
<b>Urban sprawl</b>	The unplanned, uncontrolled growth of urban areas into the surrounding countryside.
<b>V-shaped valley</b>	A narrow, steep-sided valley formed by the rapid vertical erosion of a river.
<b>Waterfall</b>	A vertical, or near vertical drop of water resulting from a sudden change in the gradient of a river.
<b>Watershed</b>	A ridge of high land that forms the boundary between two adjacent drainage basins.
<b>Water table</b>	The upper limit of the zone of saturation found in a porous or permeable rock, or soil.
<b>Wave-cut notch</b>	An indentation at the foot of a cliff caused by wave erosion.
<b>Wave-cut platform</b>	A gently sloping, rocky platform found at the foot of a retreating cliff and exposed at low tide.
<b>Weathering</b>	The breakdown of rocks <i>in situ</i> by either mechanical processes (physical weathering) or chemical changes (chemical weathering).