

God's Amazing World

Glossary

Apartheid – The policy developed in South Africa, of separating people according to their race.

Arctic Circle – Imaginary line about 66 degrees north of the equator. North of this line the climate is very harsh and cold.

Atoll – Coral reef enclosing a lagoon

Aurora – Streams of bands of light that appear in the sky at night, especially in Polar Regions.

Barren – Lacking in vegetation; not able to produce fruit or crops.

Basin – Area of land that is lower than the surrounding land.

Bay – Part of a lake, sea, or ocean with land around some of it.

Border – Line which separates one country, state from another.

Canyon – Deep, narrow valley with steep sides.

Cape – Piece of land extending beyond the rest of the shoreline into the ocean.

Civilization – The ways of living of a people or nation.

Climate – All the weather that occurs in an area over a long period of time.

Coast – Land along a sea or ocean

Coastal Plain – An area of flat, low-lying land adjacent to a seacoast and separated from the interior by other features.

Continent – Huge land mass. There are seven continents.

Country – Any independent nation with a name and a boundary.

Culture – The customs, arts, and conveniences of a nation or people at a given time.

Currents – Flow of water or air.

Delta – Triangle-shaped area of land at the mouth of the river.

Desert – Dry land with few plants.

Drought – No rainfall occurring for along period of time.

Earthquake – A shaking or shifting motion of the earth's surface.

Endangered Species – A species that is liable to become extinct.

Equator – Imaginary line that circles the Earth halfway between the poles.

Ethnic Group – A group of people sharing a common racial, religious, or cultural background.

Famine – A serious lack of food in a place, causing much starvation.

Geography – Study of the features of the earth and of the places where plants and animals live.

Geyser – A spring that sprouts a fountain or jet of hot water and steam into the air at regular intervals.

Glacier – Huge mass of slowly moving ice.

Gulf – Body of water with land around some of it, but larger than a bay

Gulf Stream – Current of warm water in the Atlantic.

Inca – Member of the American Indian tribe that lived in the Andes Mountains region of South America.

International Date Line – Imaginary line agreed to be the place where each new calendar day begins.

Island – Land that has water on all sides.

Isthmus – Narrow neck of land connecting two larger areas of land.

Lake – A body of water with land on all sides.

Latitude – Imaginary lines running east to west around the Earth. The equator lies at 0 degrees latitude.

Longitude – Imaginary lines that run from north to south around the earth.

Mediterranean Region – Countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea

Missionary – A person who goes abroad trying to spread his or her religion.

Monsoon – A wind that changes direction with the change of the season.

Mountain – Highest kind of land.

Mouth – The place where a river flows into another body of water.

Native People – The people who belong by birth or origin to a place.

Nomadic – People who move from place to place in search of food, water, and land to graze their animals.

Northern Hemisphere – The half of the Earth that lies north of the equator.

Ocean – A huge area of salt water. There are five oceans. (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, and Southern)

Outlet – The mouth of a river where it flows into a larger body of water.

Peninsula – Area of land with water on three sides.

Plain – Large area of flat, treeless land.

Plateau – Large area of flat, high land with steep sides.

Poles – Northern and southernmost points on the earth.

Precipitation – Rain, hail, sleet, snow and other types of moisture that fall to the earth

Rain Forest – A very dense forest in a region where rain is heavy throughout the year.

Reef – Ridge of rocks or coral at or near the surface of the water.

Reservoir – Place where water is collected and stored for use.

River – Large stream of water that flows across that land.

Rural – Relating to the countryside.

Savanna – Open grassland in a tropical or subtropical region.

Sea – Any large body of salt water smaller than an ocean.

Southern Hemisphere – The half of the Earth that lies south of the Equator.

Steppe - Vast grass-covered plains, that stretch from Eastern Europe across central Asia.

Strait – Narrow body of water that joins two larger bodies of water.

Swamp – Area of low, wet land with trees.

Tropic of Cancer – An imaginary line that circles around the earth at 23.45 degrees north of the equator.

Tropic of Capricorn – An imaginary line that circles around the earth at 23.45 degrees south of the equator.

Tropical – The region between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. Hottest part of the earth is in the tropics.

Tundra – A vast treeless plain in the arctic regions.

Urban – Relating to a town or city.

Valley – Low land between hills or mountains.

Volcano – Mountain that has poured out hot rock.

Woodland – Land covered with trees.