

Geography Knowledge Organiser 7.1: Geographical Skills

1. What is Geography?

Geography is the study of place – where places are, what places are like and why places are like that.

Geography can be split into two areas of study – Physical Geography and Human Geography.

Physical Geography is the study of natural features – natural places and the processes that change them.

Human Geography is the study of man-made features – man-made places and the processes that change them.

You may have studied a range of physical and human Geography topics previously – here are some possible examples;

Physical	Human
Rainforests	Cities
Rivers	Transport
Weather	Your town – Swindon
Earthquakes and volcanoes	Farming

Key terms

Geography: the study of place

Physical Geography: the study of natural features

Human Geography: the study of man-made features

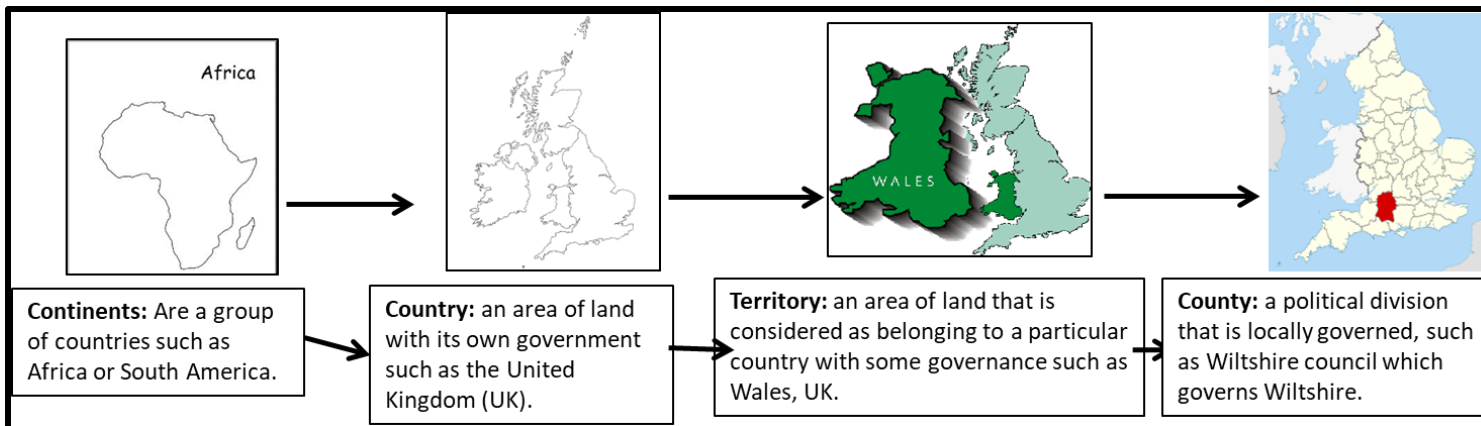
Continent: A group of countries

Country: a nation with its own government

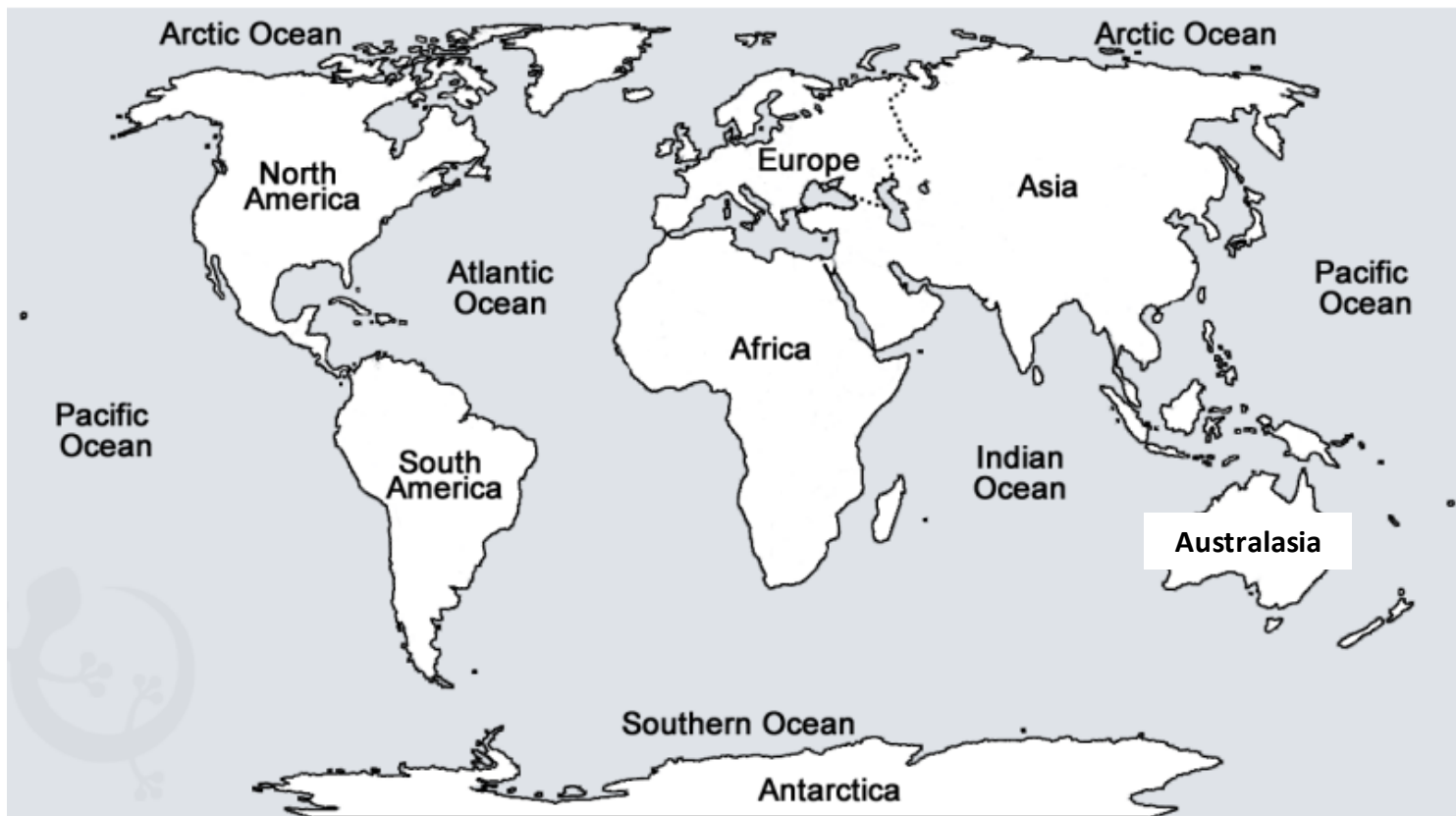
Territory: an area of land that belongs to a particular country

County: a political division that is locally governed by a council

2. Locating places



3. Continents and Oceans



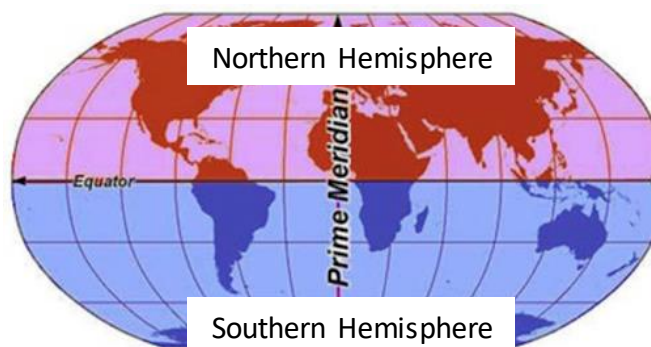
Key terms

Continent: A group of countries

Ocean: A large mass of water

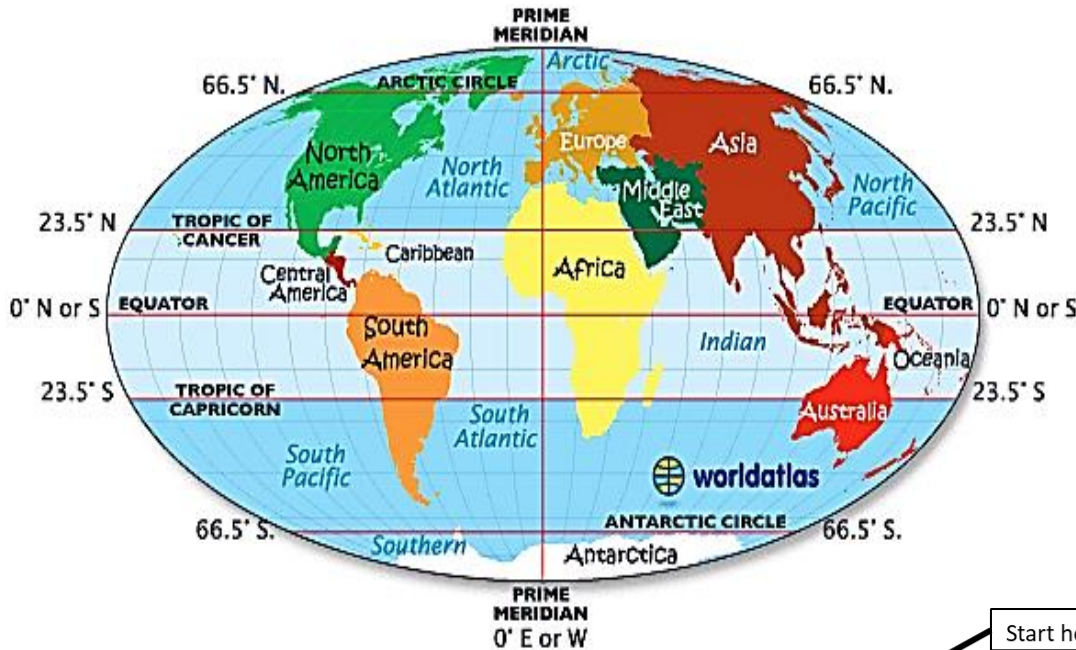
The UK is located in the continent of Europe in the northern hemisphere.

To the west of the UK is the Atlantic Ocean.



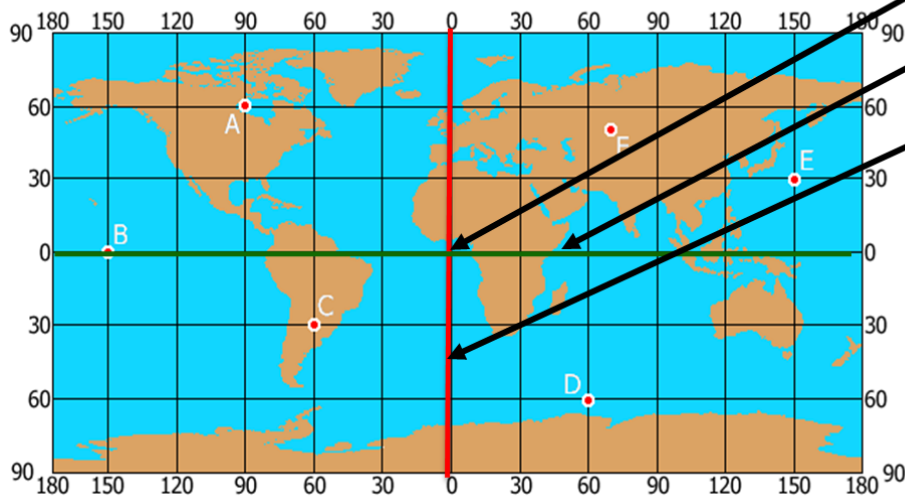
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4. Longitude and Latitude



Lines of latitude and longitude are used to locate places accurately on the Earth's surface.

They divide the Earth into segments, like an orange. The Earth is then divided into 180° east and 180° west.



Start here!

The Equator is at 0° latitude.

Greenwich (prime) meridian is 0° longitude.

When reading latitude and longitude:
go north or south first. Then east or west.

Examples:
 A = 60° North, 90° East
 B = 0°, 150° West
 C = 30° South, 60° West
 D = 60° South, 60° East
 E = 30° North, 150° East
 F = 50° North, 65° East

Key terms

Latitude: horizontal lines, which measure the distance from the equator in degrees.

Longitude: vertical lines which run from the top of the Earth to the bottom.

Equator: Line around the centre of the earth at 0° latitude

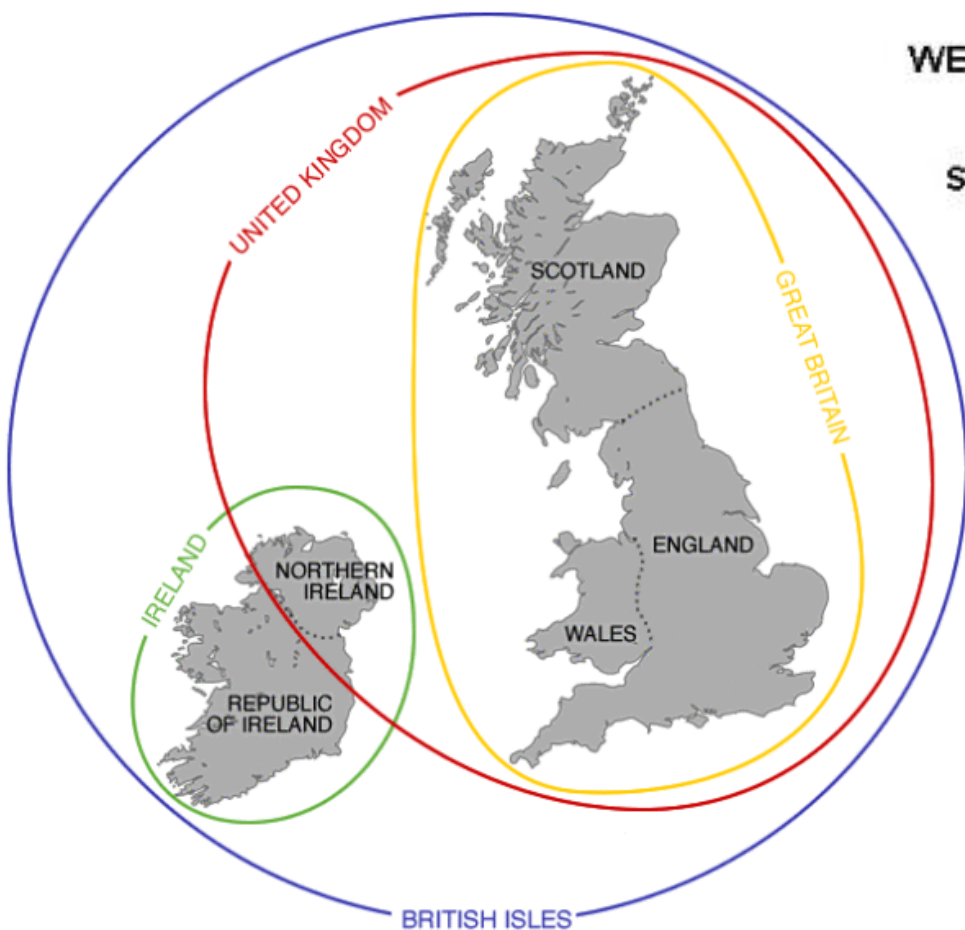
Prime Meridian: Line from the north pole to the south pole at 0° longitude

Northern Hemisphere: part of the earth to the north of the equator

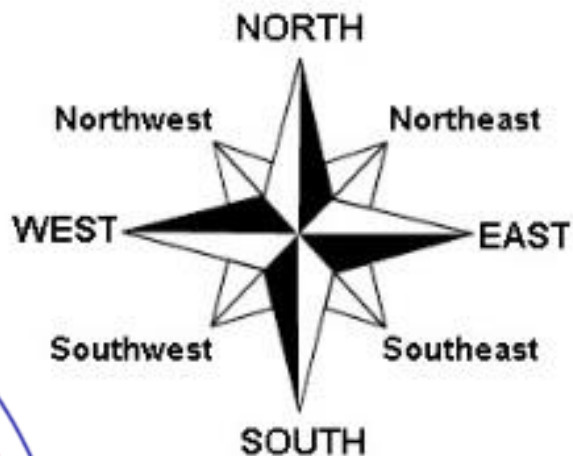
Southern Hemisphere: part of the earth to the south of the equator

5. Countries in the UK

- British Isles = Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland.
- UK= Northern Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland.
- Great Britain = England, Wales and Scotland.
- Ireland = Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.



Compass Directions



Key terms

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6. Geography of the UK

The UK – Seas and Oceans



Atlantic Ocean



The UK – Capital Cities

Northern Ireland

Wales

Scotland

England

Capital Cities:
UK: London
England: London,
Wales: Cardiff
Scotland: Edinburgh
Northern Ireland: Belfast

Key terms

capital city: the most important city in a country usually where the government is located.

7. Relief of the UK

- **Relief** is the term used to describe the height and shape of the land.
- Upland areas are over 250m above sea level.
- Lowland areas are less than 250m above sea level.
- The UK's upland areas are located in the north and west e.g. Snowdonia, Grampian Mountains, Pennines.
- The UK's **lowland** areas are located in the south and east.



Keywords:

upland – areas that are 250m or more above sea level

lowland – areas that are less than 250m above sea level

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8. Ordnance Survey Maps: Relief (contour lines) and scale

A map is a two-dimensional drawing of an area. The most common paper map is an Ordnance Survey Map.

Maps show the relief of the land with:

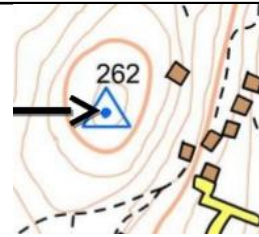
Contours

These are lines drawn on maps that join places of the same height. They are usually a brown colour. Some contour lines have their height above or below sea level written on them. It is possible to use them to see the shape of the land - if contour lines are close together the slope is steep, if they are far apart the slope is gentle.



Spot heights

Shows the exact heights by a black dot with a number next to it. The number is the height above sea level in metres.



Key terms










relief: height / shape of the land

9. Ordnance Survey Maps: Symbols and Directions

Symbols

Symbols help us to include lots of detail on maps that are drawn to scale.

They include simple images, letters and abbreviations. Here are some examples.

	Campsite		Viewpoint		Parking
	Train station	Sch	School		Information centre
	Telephone		Nature Reserve		Place of worship
	Bus/Coach Station				

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10. Using 4 and 6 figure grid references

A grid of squares helps the map-reader to locate a place. **This is very similar to co-ordinates in Maths!**

On an OS map each grid square is 1 km x 1 km or **1 sq. km (km²)**.

When you give a grid reference, always give the easting first; the golden rule is **ALONG THE CORRIDOR AND UP THE STAIRS!**

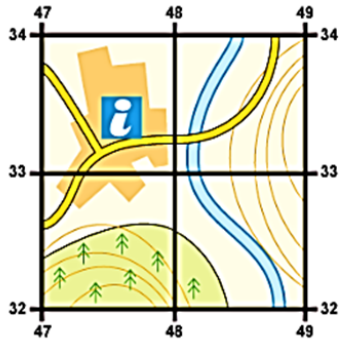
Key terms

grid references: given as a 4 or 6 figure set of numbers used to find places on an OS map

To find a 4-figure grid reference

1. Start at the left-hand side of the map and go east until you get to the easting crossing through the **bottom left-hand** corner of the square you want. Write this number down.
2. Move north until you get to the northing crossing the bottom left hand corner of the square you want. Look at the number of this grid line and add it to the two digit number you already have. This is your four figure grid reference.

For example: the Tourist information office's grid reference is 4733.



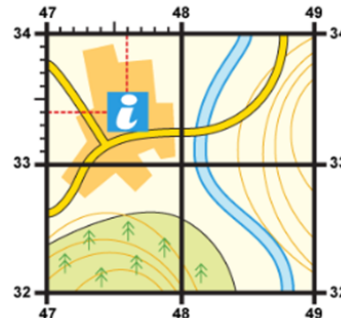
1. Start in the bottom left hand corner
2. Go along the corridor
3. Up the stairs

To find a 6-figure grid reference

To be even more accurate, imagine that each grid is divided into tenths (10 little squares).

1. Find the four-figure grid reference but leave a space after the first two digits. When you get to the easting at the left-hand side of the grid square you want, keep moving east and estimate or measure how many tenths across your symbol lies. Write this number after the first two digits.
2. Move north from the bottom-left-hand corner of your grid square and estimate how many tenths your symbol is from this point. Put them together to create a six figure grid reference.

For example: the Tourist information office's six figure grid reference is 476334



11. Ordnance Survey Maps: Scale

Most maps have a scale. These help us to work out distances on maps. This is given by the scale statement (e.g. 1:25,000) and/or by showing a scale bar. The scale shows how much bigger the real world is than the map. If the scale is 1:25000 it means that the map is 25,000 times smaller than the real world. For example, every 1 cm on the map represents 25,000 cm (250m) in the real world.

An important thing to remember is for a 1:25000 OS map 4cm = 1km!