

Key Vocabulary

biomes	large geographical area which is home to certain plants and animals, specially adapted to suit the environment.
climate	The usual or average weather conditions over a long period of time.
continent	A large landmass made up of many countries .
country	An area that is controlled by its own government.
equator	An imaginary line around the globe at latitude 0° north dividing the earth into northern and southern hemispheres.
flora/fauna	Plant and animal life.
latitude	Imaginary parallel lines which circle the globe from east to west.
longitude	Imaginary lines which run north to south across the globe from pole to pole.
weather	The specific atmospheric conditions on a given day including temperature and rainfall.

The Americas

- The Americas are two separate continents consisting of North America and South America.
- North America contains 23 different countries.
- The Americas cover a huge area of the globe, extending over several lines of latitude and longitude.
- The characteristics of different countries and regions vary significantly, including weather, land use and flora and fauna.



How Can You Compare Different Places?

Physical Geography

The natural features of a place or environment.

- oceans and coastlines
- rivers and lakes
- mountains and volcanoes
- flora and fauna
- land-form

Human Geography

Features of an environment that have been shaped by people.

- country/region boundaries
- buildings, roads and land use
- changes to river courses
- languages/signs
- religion, government, art and music

Climate Groups

The Köppen System is a climate classification system. It is split into five main groups which each consist of a range of climate types:

- Temperate - hot dry summers, and cooler wetter winters, Mediterranean e.g. United Kingdom
- Continental - long, cold winters and short, hot summers, inland areas e.g. parts of Turkey
- Polar - long periods of extreme cold, tundra, ice cap e.g. Antarctica
- Tropical - hot and humid, wet, rainforest e.g. Brazil
- Dry - arid, desert e.g. Saudi Arabia

The four main **climate** zones, determined by **latitude**.

