



Geography Vocabulary - South America including Rio de Janeiro and South East Brazil

Words	RAG	Definition	Tally
agriculture		farming	
Brasilia		capital of Brazil	
continent		One of the seven large land masses on the earth's surface, surrounded, or mainly surrounded, by sea and usually consisting of various countries.	
climate		The weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period.	
crops		A plant that is grown on a large scale to be sold, especially a cereal, fruit or vegetable.	
culture		The attitudes, behaviour, opinions, etc. of a particular group of people within society.	
currency		A system of money in general use in a particular country.	
economy		The system of trade and industry by which the wealth of a country is made and used.	
equatorial		at or near the equator	
exports		Goods or services which are sent to another country for sale.	
favela		a Brazilian shack or shanty town; a slum	
imports		To bring (goods or services) into a country from abroad for sale.	
latitude		A place north or south of the earth's equator, usually expressed in degrees.	
longitude		A place east or west of the Greenwich meridian, usually expressed in degrees and minutes.	
manufacturing		The making of articles on a large scale using machinery; industrial production.	
mining		The process or industry of obtaining coal or other minerals from a mine.	
natural resources		Materials or substances occurring in nature which can be sold for economic gain.	
population		the number of all the inhabitants of a particular place	
port		A town or city with a harbour or access to navigable water where ships load or unload.	
recreation		An activity done for enjoyment when one is not working.	
region		an area of a country	
São Paulo		A state and a city in Brazil - it is the most populated city in the country.	
Southern Hemisphere		The part of the earth that lies south of the Equator.	
tourism		The business of providing services such as transport, places to stay, or entertainment for people who are on holiday.	
trade		The action of buying and selling goods and services.	
transport		To take or carry (people or goods) from one place to another by means of a vehicle, aircraft, or ship.	
tropical		The climate found around the Equator which is hot and humid.	
Tropic of Capricorn		It is at the latitude 23°26' south of the Equator.	
UTC		Coordinated Universal Time: prior to 1972, it was called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).	



Geography Vocabulary - Rivers

Words	RAG	Definition	Tally
acid rain		Rainfall made so acidic by atmospheric pollution that it causes environmental harm, chiefly to forests and lakes.	
altitude		The height of a point in relation to sea level or ground level.	
channel		A part of a river or other area of water that is deep and wide enough to provide a route for ships to travel along.	
condensation		the process by which water vapor in the atmosphere (the air surrounding the earth) cools and changes into liquid water.	
confluence		The place where two rivers flow together and become one larger river.	
dam		A wall built across a river that stops the river's flow and collects the water, especially to make a reservoir.	
drainage		The system of water or waste liquids flowing away from somewhere into the ground.	
embankment		A natural or man-made area of land at the side of a river bank.	
erosion		When material is removed from the riverbed and banks. There are four types of river erosion.	
estuary		The wide part of a river at the place where it joins the sea.	
evaporation		The process of turning from liquid into vapour.	
fertile		Land which is able to produce a large number of high-quality crops.	
flooding		When an area is covered with water, especially from rain.	
flood management		The technique and strategy to reduce the risk and damage from flooding.	
flood plain		An area of low-lying ground next to a river, formed mainly of river sediments and subject to flooding.	
flood prevention		Flood control (or flood management or flood protection) methods are used to reduce or prevent the detrimental effects of flood waters.	
freshwater		Water that does not contain any salt, especially water found in lakes and rivers.	
hydro-electric power		Producing electricity by the force of fast-moving water such as rivers or waterfalls.	
irrigation		The practice of supplying land with water so that crops and plants will grow.	
logging		The activity of cutting down trees in order to use their wood.	
lower course		The end of a river is called the lower course. This is where the river flows into another body of water, like the sea or another river.	
middle course		The middle course of the river is wide and deep with fast flowing water. Lots of tributaries flow into the middle course, adding extra water to the river channel.	
mouth		The place where a river enters a lake, larger river or the ocean.	
meanders		a winding curve or bend of a river	
pollution		The introduction of harmful materials into the environment.	
precipitation		rain, snow, sleet or hail	
overland flow		Water moves across the surface of the earth becoming a stream, tributary or river.	
ox-bow lake		A curved lake formed from a horseshoe bend in a river where the main stream has cut across the narrow end and no longer flows around the loop of the bend.	
riverbank		the land at either edge of a river	



river basin			An area of land drained by a river and its tributaries. Also known as a drainage basin.	
source			The original point from which the river flows.	
transportation			The river picks up sediment and carries it downstream in different ways.	
tributary			A river or stream that flows into a larger river.	
upper course			The highest section of a river located in the mountains.	
water cycle			The journey water takes as it moves from the land to the sky and back again. It follows a cycle of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection.	
waterfall			a steep drop in a river over a rocky ledge	
water vapour			Water in the form of a gas resulting from heating water or ice.	



Geography Vocabulary - The Local Area

Words	RAG	Definition	Tally
aerial map		A photograph taken from the air which shows the land and its use as a bird's eye view.	
agriculture		The science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool and other products.	
county		a political division of the UK or Ireland	
function		the main activities or purpose of a settlement e.g. residential, industrial, commercial and recreational	
grid reference		A map reference indicating a location in terms of a series of vertical and horizontal grid lines identified by numbers or letters.	
housing types		e.g. terraced, semi-detached, detached, flats or bungalows	
industrial estate		An area of land developed as a site for factories and other industrial businesses. Also called industrial park.	
international		Existing, occurring, or carried on between nations.	
land use		The way in which land is used by people. Examples could include housing, industry or green spaces (such as parklands or farming).	
local		Relating or restricted to a particular area or one's neighbourhood.	
market		The place where goods are sold.	
national		common to a whole nation	
regional		Relating to a region.	
retail parks		A shopping development situated outside a town or city, typically containing a number of large chain stores.	
rural		Relating to the countryside.	
scales		A map cannot be the same size as the area it represents. It needs to be scaled down to fit on a page or a screen. Maps come in different scales. Each scale show a different amount of detail.	
service industry		work such as retail, administration, education, healthcare or tourism	
settlement pattern		The shape and spacing of settlements, settlements might be linear (such as following the path of a road or river), dispersed (such as a number of farms), or nucleated (such as a densely settled village or town).	
settlement		A place where people live, which can be categorised into villages, towns and cities.	
shopping centres		Shopping areas that are characterised by being undercover and having ample parking.	
site		The location of where a settlement first started.	
situation		the location of a settlement in relation to the surrounding area	
suburb		the residential and commercial development at the edge of a city	
urban		Relating to a town or city.	
urbanisation		The increase in the percentage of people living in cities.	



Geography Vocabulary - North America

Words	RAG	Definition	Tally
arid climate		hot and dry	
Canada		Second largest country in the world. It spans 6 time zones and borders 3 oceans. Found in the continent of North America.	
Caribbean		A section of the Atlantic Ocean consisting of more than 7,000 islands. Located off the coast of Central America, it has a tropical climate.	
Central America		A narrow strip of land that lies at the southern end of North America. It connects the continent of North America with South America.	
continent		One of the seven large land masses on the earth's surface, surrounded, or mainly surrounded, by sea and usually consisting of various countries.	
climate		The weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period.	
climate zone		A part of the world where places have a similar climate (e.g. arid, Mediterranean, temperate, tropical, polar)	
Equator		An invisible line that runs around the centre of the Earth.	
equatorial		at or near the equator - Central America	
glacier		A glacier is a very large, thick mass of ice that stays frozen from one year to the next and has the ability to move.	
Great Lakes		The Great Lakes are five large lakes in eastern North America. They are Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. They form the largest connected area of fresh water on Earth.	
grid plan		In <u>urban planning</u> , the grid plan, grid street plan, or gridiron plan is a type of <u>city plan</u> in which <u>streets</u> run at <u>right angles</u> to each other, forming a <u>grid</u> .	
human features		Features of a place that are a result of human activity, such as shops, farms, homes and roads.	
landscape		What you can see when you look across an area of land.	
latitude		A place north or south of the earth's equator, usually expressed in degrees.	
location		A place - latitude and longitude can be used to pinpoint a location.	
longitude		A place east or west of the Greenwich meridian, usually expressed in degrees and minutes.	
Mediterranean climate		Dry summers and mild, wet winters.	
Mexico		Mexico is a large country that sits between the United States and Central America.	
Mississippi River		The Mississippi ranks as the thirteenth-largest river by discharge in the world. It is the 11th longest river in the world. Total Length: 2,320 miles.	
mountain range		A mountain range (mountain chain, mountain belt) is a geographic area with many mountains that generally form a long line of mountains.	
National Park		A national park is a park or a area of land officially recognized and protected by a nation's government. National parks are often made to protect the animals, wildlife that live inside them or the land itself. E.g. Banff National Park - Canada; Yellowstone National Park - USA.	
New York City		New York City is the largest city in the United States. It is one of the world's great centres of culture and business. It was built on a 'grid plan' system.	
Northern Hemisphere		The part of the earth that lies north of the Equator.	



Panama Canal			The Panama Canal is a waterway that connects the <u>Atlantic</u> and <u>Pacific</u> oceans. It cuts through a narrow strip of land in <u>Panama</u> , a country of Central America.	
polar climate			A dry climate with very low temperatures located close to the north or south pole	
population			the number of all the inhabitants of a particular place	
physical features			Natural features of a place, such as mountains, rivers and seas.	
Rocky Mountains			The Rocky Mountains, also known as the Rockies, are a major <u>mountain range</u> and the largest mountain system in <u>North America</u> . The Rocky Mountains stretch 3,000 mi (4,800 km) in straight-line distance from the northernmost part of <u>western Canada</u> , to <u>New Mexico</u>	
rural			Rural areas are areas which are not <u>towns</u> or <u>cities</u> . They are often <u>farming</u> or agricultural areas. These areas are sometimes called "the country" or "countryside".	
state			An area of land with its own government. There are 50 states in the USA.	
temperate climate			No extreme weather, with rainfall throughout the year.	
time zones			Time zones give specific areas on the <u>Earth</u> a <u>time of day</u> that is earlier or later than the neighbouring time zones. There are 24 time zones.	
topography			Topography is the study of shape and features on the surface of the Earth. These features typically include natural formations such as mountains, rivers or lakes.	
tropical climate			The climate found around the Equator which has high temperatures all year round with lots of rain - humid.	
Tropic of Cancer			It is at the latitude 23°27' north of the Equator.	
urban			Places such as <u>cities</u> where there are lots of people, <u>buildings</u> and roads.	
UTC			Coordinated Universal Time: prior to 1972, it was called <u>Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)</u> .	
volcano			A volcano is an opening in Earth's crust. When a volcano erupts, hot gases and melted rock from deep within Earth find their way up to the surface.	



Geography Vocabulary - Volcanoes and Earthquakes

Words	RAG	Definition	Tally
active volcano		Active volcanoes have a recent history of eruptions; they are likely to erupt again.	
after-shock		An after-shock is a smaller earthquake which comes after a large earthquake (called the main-shock) in the same area.	
ash cloud		Tiny particles of rock ejected from a volcano into the air.	
central vent		A route through the Earth's crust to the surface.	
continent		One of the seven large land masses on the earth's surface, surrounded, or mainly surrounded, by sea and usually consisting of various countries.	
core		The centre part of the Earth; it is the hottest and reaches 5,400 Celsius.	
crater		The mouth of a volcano which surrounds the main vent.	
crust		The rigid outer shell of the Earth. You live on it!	
disaster		A natural disaster is a major <u>event</u> caused by natural processes of the Earth; examples include <u>floods</u> , <u>tornadoes</u> , <u>volcanic eruptions</u> , <u>earthquakes</u> and <u>tsunamis</u> . A natural disaster often causes loss of life or property damage.	
dormant volcano		A dormant volcano is a volcano, like Kilimanjaro, that has not erupted for a long time.	
earthquake		An earthquake is when the ground beneath your feet begins to shake. It may only last a few seconds - or much longer. The tectonic plates are moving in opposite directions.	
effect		A change that is a result of an action	
epicentre		Where an earthquake starts and is felt most strongly.	
eruption		A sudden ejection of substances from a volcano.	
extinct volcano		A volcano that has not erupted for thousands of years and is unlikely to erupt again. Arthur's Seat - Edinburgh	
fault line		A long crack in the surface of the Earth, where tectonic plates meet.	
fertile		A place where things grow really easily.	
geothermal energy		Geothermal energy is heat that comes from inside Earth. It is an alternative energy source.	
Great African Rift Valley		It is a vast break in the Earth's surface that runs along part of East Africa. Mount Kenya and Mount Kilimanjaro are two of the tall peaks formed by volcanoes in this area.	
human features		Features of a place that are a result of human activity, such as shops, farms, homes and roads.	
landscape		What you can see when you look across an area of land.	
lava		Molten rock that flows out of a volcano. When it cools, it gets hard and changes the height or shape of a volcano.	
location		A place - latitude and longitude can be used to pinpoint a location.	
magma		Molten rock underground.	
mantle		Middle layer of the Earth. It is a layer of solid, hot rock that can move and flow.	
Mauna Loa		The Mauna Loa volcano is the biggest active volcano on the planet and is found on the big island of Hawaii in the Pacific Ocean.	
natural disaster		An event caused by nature that has an impact on people and property.	
ocean		A huge body of salt water. There are 5 oceans in the world.	



Pacific Ring of Fire			The Pacific Ring of Fire is an <u>arc</u> around the <u>Pacific Ocean</u> where many <u>volcanoes</u> and <u>earthquakes</u> are formed. There are 452 volcanoes, some are dormant and some active.	
plate boundary			The edge of a tectonic plate where two plates meet. Volcanoes are normally located on or nearby. Plate movements cause eruptions.	
physical features			Natural features of a place, such as mountains, rivers and seas.	
Richter Scale			The Richter magnitude scale is a scale of numbers used to tell the size of earthquakes.	
shield volcano			A low, flat volcano formed from runny lava that cooled slowly.	
side vent			A route through the Earth's crust to the surface found on the side of a volcano. Normally smaller than the central vent.	
rural			Rural areas are areas which are not <u>towns</u> or <u>cities</u> . They are often <u>farming</u> or agricultural areas. These areas are sometimes called "the country" or "countryside".	
tectonic plates			'Tectonic plates' or 'plates' are large slabs of rock, which are on the move. We live on the Eurasian Plate.	
tourism			The business of providing services such as transport, places to stay, or entertainment for people who are on holiday.	
tsunami			A huge, powerful wave caused by an earthquake.	
urban			Places such as <u>cities</u> where there are lots of people, <u>buildings</u> and roads.	
volcanic bomb			Flying rocks that are ejected (thrown out) from the crater of a volcano.	
volcano			A volcano is an opening in Earth's crust. When a volcano erupts, hot gases and melted rock from deep within Earth find their way up to the surface.	