Key Vocabulary		
biomes	A 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	Human Geography	
The natural features of a place or environment.	Features of an environment that have been shaped by people.	
oceans and coastlines	• country/region boundaries	
• rivers and lakes	buildings, roads and land use	
mountains and volcanoes	changes to river courses	
flora and fauna	• language/signs	
• land-form	• 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**.

Polar 60° - 90°
Temperate 40° - 60°
Sub-tropics 23.5° - 40°
Tropical 0 - 23.5°
Sub-tropics 23.5° - 40°
Temperate 40° - 60°
Polar 60° - 90°





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