



# Geographical Concepts and Definitions

Concept	What does It mean and why do we learn it?
Location	Location as a concept can be explained in terms of a designated area, a locality such as a town, city or country. It can be defined as a human settlement or archaeological site. Location is used as a geographer's tool of description. Also studied is a place's 'absolute location' its precise and fixed place on Earth, regularly referred to in terms of latitude and longitude. Whereas 'relative location' will allow the involvement and opportunity to compare position in relation to differing landmarks or places.
Place	Place as a concept develops understanding of the physical and human characteristics of places. Understanding a place relates to the opinion and meaning that people attach to a location. We may distinguish the importance of the place as a home, but the sense of place is much greater for those living there because of their attachment and experience of that place. As a concept it examines the uniqueness of a space and questions what is specific about this area. Place scrutinises the diversity, sustainability, and intangibles of an area although these are often personal and subjective.
Human processes	Human geography looks at the impact and behaviour of people and how they relate to the physical world. Human processes could therefore be defined in terms of how human involvement has affected the world.
Physical processes	Physical geography looks at the natural processes of the Earth, such as climate and plate tectonics. A physical process could be defined as an incident or series of incidents that happen naturally due to the effects and importance of a specific force of nature.
Movement	The concept of movement involves a change in location of people, products, ideas and elements, this can be through travel or flow. Movement is a significant consideration in how land is changed over time. Where movement is referred to, distance, direction, the processes bringing about movement and the regularity and volume of movement all need to be considered. Movement can be represented in different ways graphically; colour and lines are usually used to show the date of spread and arrows can show the distance and direction of movement.
Field work	Fieldwork is learning directly in the real world outside the classroom and has a long tradition in school geography. It is one of the distinctive features of a geographical education and feeds our curiosity about the world. Much fieldwork is done locally even within the school grounds.