

Year 9 Geography Vocabulary List

(Tier 2 and Tier 3)



Adaptation – an action to prepare for and adjust to new conditions, thereby reducing harm or taking advantage of new opportunities

Berlin Conference – where 14 European nations met in 1884-85 to divide the continent of Africa among themselves

Civil war – conflict within a country usually involving the government on one side and organised groups on the other

Climate change – a long term change in the Earth's climate, especially a change due to an increase in the average atmospheric temperature

Colonialism – type of government where a geographic area is ruled by a foreign power

Conservative plate margin – where two plates slide alongside each other, e.g. the San Andreas Fault in California, USA

Constructive plate margin – where two plates move away from each other, e.g. at the Mid-Atlantic Ridge

Continental drift – the movement of continents and tectonic plates, which is driven by convection in the mantle

Corrupt – not honest

Crater – the bowl-shaped top of a volcano

Crust – the thin outer layer of Earth, made of rock

Destructive plate margin – where two plates move towards each other, e.g. at the Mariana Trench

Development – the process of change by which people reach an acceptable standard of living or quality of life

Earthquake – sudden violent shaking of the ground

Epicentre – the point on the ground surface directly above the focus of an earthquake

Fault – a tear or fracture in Earth's crust

Fossil fuel – a natural hydrocarbon fuel such as petrol, coal or natural gas, which is formed by the fossilised remains of ancient plants and animals that are deposited over millions of years

Global warming – the recent increase in global temperature

Greenhouse effect – natural warming of the atmosphere as heat given off from the Earth is absorbed by liquids and gases, such as carbon dioxide

Informal sector – unofficial jobs where no records are kept and people do not pay tax to the government, e.g. street seller

Lava – magma that erupts from the ground

Natural disaster – when a natural event causes great damage and loss of life

Natural hazard - when a natural event threatens to cause great damage and loss of life

Mitigation - any action intended to **reduce the flow of heat-trapping greenhouse gases** (GHGs) into the atmospheric store, for example by curbing fossil fuel use or increasing GHG storage (by planting more trees or restoring peatlands)

Renewable – resources that can be replaced over time, and will not run out, such as water, wind, forests etc

Ridge push – when gravity causes the mid-ocean ridge to sink down and spread out

Seismic waves – shock waves radiating out from the focus of an earthquake

Slab pull – when the weight of the descending oceanic plate pulls the whole plate along and down

Sustainability – when materials and resources are used in a way that will balance the needs of the present without compromising the future, the ability to maintain something such as economic growth

Squatter settlement – an area of poor-quality housing with no or limited services such as water supply, sewage and electricity

Tropical storm – a powerful storm formed in the tropics

Tsunami – a destructive wave caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption