



Geography

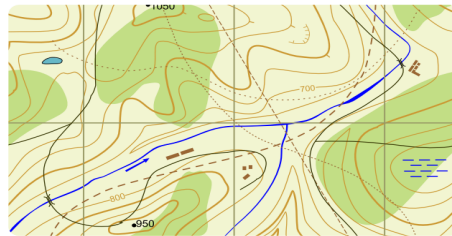
Investigating Our World - Advent 1

Ordnance Survey maps

Ordnance Survey are Britain's national mapping agency. People use map symbols, six-figure grid references and compass directions to analyse and compare places and features on Ordnance Survey maps.

Contour lines

Hills, slopes and mountains are represented on a map using contour lines. By studying the contour lines on a map, you can work out the topography of an area. Contour lines are brown lines on an Ordnance Survey map. They are a two-dimensional representation of the landscape. If contour lines are close together on the map, the land is steep. If they are far apart, the land is flat or gradually sloping. They form a circle at the peak of a hill or mountain.



Time Zones

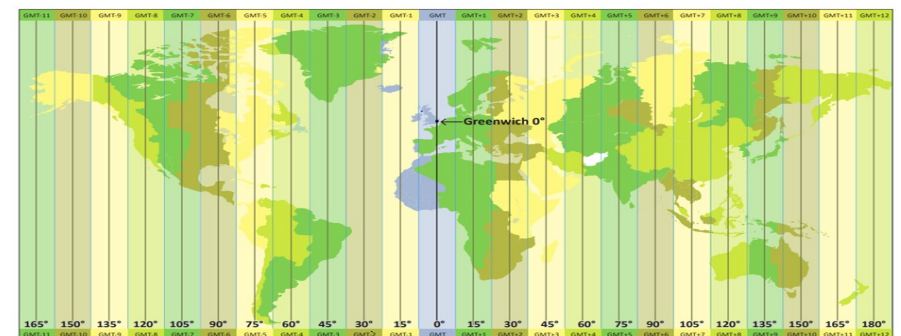
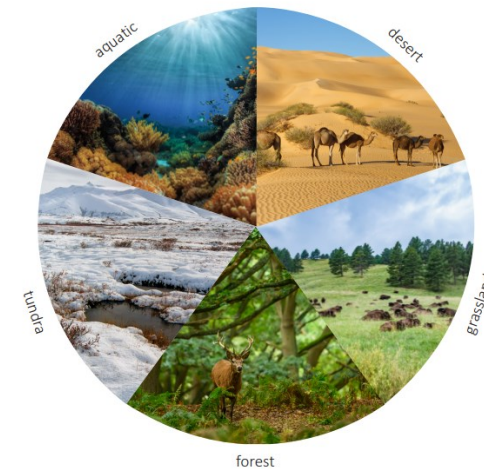
The time is different in different countries around the world. The world is split into 24 meridians. These are lines of longitude that run from the North Pole to the South Pole. The Prime Meridian is the starting point for all the other meridians. Its position is 0° . It runs through Greenwich, in England. All times around the world are calculated from the Prime Meridian. The time at the Prime, or Greenwich, Meridian is known as Greenwich Mean Time, abbreviated to GMT. If meridians are to the east of Greenwich on a map, hours are added to GMT. If they are to the west of Greenwich, hours are taken away from GMT. Time zones are labelled to show how many hours they are ahead of, or behind, the Prime Meridian, for example GMT+1 or GMT-1.

Vegetation belts

A vegetation belt is an area where certain species of plants grow because of the climate. Soil and the height of the land are other factors that affect the types of plants that grow in vegetation belts. There are five main vegetation belts, including desert, forest, grassland, ice sheet and tundra.

Biomes

A biome is a large ecosystem that has characteristic features, such as the climate and landscape. Plants and animals live there that are adapted to the environment. There are five main biome types, including aquatic, desert, forest, grassland and tundra.



Capital cities of the world

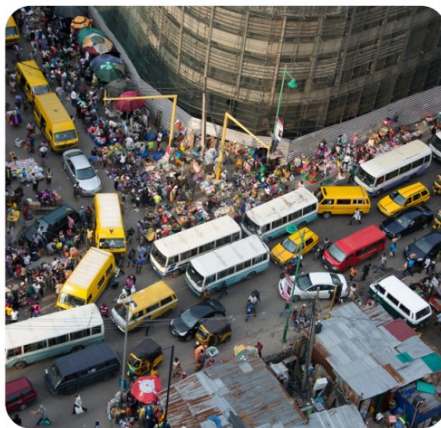
Capital cities are usually the seat of a country's government. They are large settlements with a wide range of human features and transport links and are usually a centre for business and trade. For example, Vienna is the capital city of Austria, on the continent of Europe. It is the country's centre for industry, trade and culture. There is a range of transport links in the city, including a train and underground network, a tram system, and a road system for buses, taxis and cars.



Vienna skyline

Comparing human geography

Data, including the population, population density, literacy levels, wealth, life expectancy and religion, is used to compare the human geography of the continents. For example, the continent of Africa has a larger population than Australia. Africa's population is 1340 million. The population of Australia is 43 million.



Lagos, the most populated city in Africa

Glossary

Climate

The general weather conditions found in a place over a period of time.

Ecosystem

An environment, including the plants and animals that live and interact within that environment.

Life expectancy

The number of years that a person is likely to live.

Population density

The number of people living in an area.

Topography

The physical appearance of an area of land, especially relating to its shape and surface.

Contour lines

Lines used on maps to represent hills, slopes and mountains

Biomes

A biome is a large ecosystem that has characteristic features, such as the climate and landscape.

Vegetation Belts

A vegetation belt is an area where certain species of plants grow because of the climate.