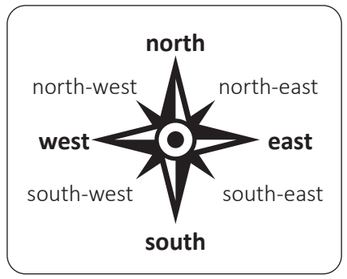
Interconnected World

Atlases and maps

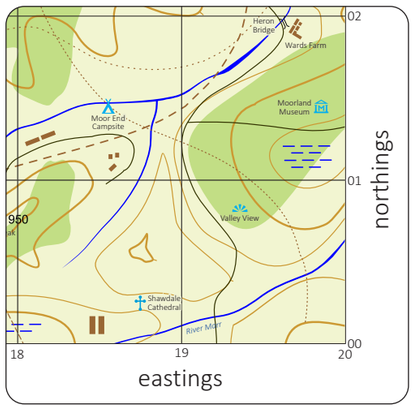
Maps, charts and atlases contain data about countries, such as their population and land height. Political maps show the locations of countries and cities. Physical maps show the location of physical features.

Compass points



There are eight points on a compass. There are four cardinal points: north, south, east and west. There are four intercardinal points: north-east, north-west, south-east and south-west. People use the cardinal and intercardinal points to give directions and plot human and physical features on maps.

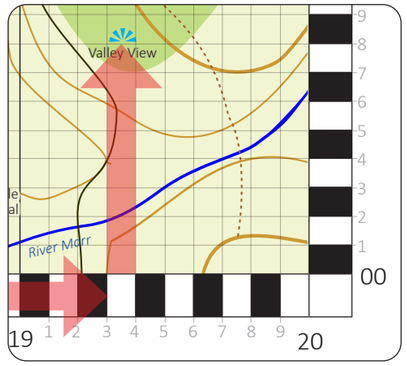
Four-figure grid references



A grid reference is a location on a map. Four-figure grid references are used to locate a grid square on a map. To find a four-figure grid reference, you follow the horizontal axis, called the easting, from west to east, and then the vertical axis, called the northing, from south to north, until they meet at the bottom left-hand corner of the square you want to reference. The easting followed by the northing makes a four-figure grid reference. The four-figure grid reference for the square containing Shawdale Cathedral is 18 00.

Six-figure grid references

A six-figure grid reference is six numbers that locate an exact position of a human or physical feature within a grid square on a map. On an Ordnance Survey map, markers divide each grid square into 100 smaller squares. We go 'along the corridor' to the left side of the square and 'up the stairs' to the bottom left-hand corner of the square to find the six-figure grid reference. For example, the six-figure grid reference for the viewpoint, Valley View, is 193 008.

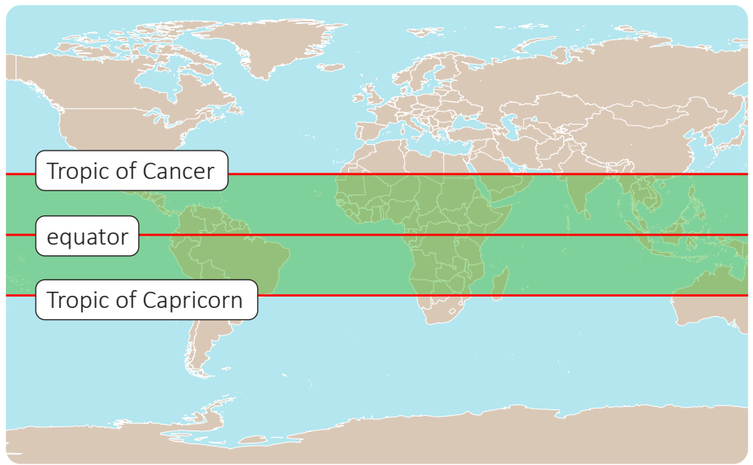


Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn

The tropics is an area between two imaginary lines of latitude, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, which lie on either side of the equator.

The Tropic of Cancer lies 23°N of the equator in the Northern Hemisphere. The Tropic of Capricorn lies 23°S of the equator in the Southern Hemisphere.

The tropics is an area of significance. It contains 95% of the world's mangrove forests, which absorb large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and release oxygen. The hot and wet climate produces fresh food all year round, which is shipped worldwide, such as rice, bananas and mangoes.



Life in North and South America

Cultural studies of a country include the language, religion and values of the people who originate from or live in a particular place. The countries in North and South America have a range of different cultures, which have been influenced by indigenous peoples, European colonisation and immigration.

Canada

Canadian flag

Continent: North America

Official languages: French and English

Religion: Around 60% of Canadian people practise Christianity.

Values: Canadian people respect different cultures and value gender and racial equality. They also appreciate nature.

Brazil

Brazilian flag

Continent: South America

Official languages: Portuguese

Religion: Around 90% of Brazilian people practise Christianity.

Values: Brazilian people value relationships, family, honesty and respect. Respecting elders is part of the law.

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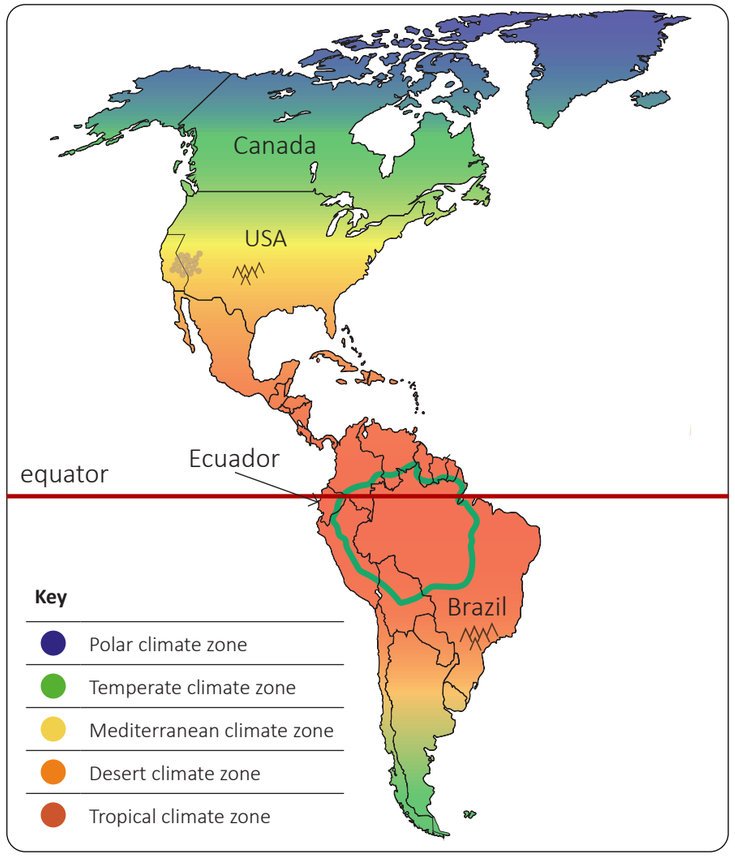
Contrasting climates

Some countries have contrasting climate zones, which means that the typical weather conditions can be very different. Countries in the continents of North and South America have contrasting climate zones.



Canada has a polar climate in the north and a temperate climate in the south. The United States of America has a mainly tropical climate but the north is cooler. Most of Ecuador has a tropical climate. Brazil has a tropical climate overall, but there are some temperate regions further from the equator.

The distance of a country from the equator affects climate. Countries nearer the equator are hotter, and countries further from the equator are colder. Physical features, such as mountains and rainforests, also affect the climate.

Significant features of the United Kingdom

Significant features of the United Kingdom include forests, mountains, rivers, lakes and islands, such as the New Forest National Park in England, the Grampian Mountains in Scotland, River Bann in Northern Ireland and Anglesey, an island in Wales.

National Rail network

National Rail is a company that owns, looks after and develops Britain's railway network and trains. Principal railway routes link major towns and cities across Britain. Many principal routes terminate in London. Railway stations are sometimes linked to ferry interchanges and airports.

Canals

Canals are man-made waterways. They were created during the Industrial Revolution to transport raw materials and goods around the country. Locks, tunnels and aqueducts are all features of canals.

Canals declined when railways and roads developed but were conserved after the Second World War and are used today for recreation and leisure.

Glossary

colonisation	Settlers from other countries taking control of an area from indigenous people.
immigration	Coming to another country to live there permanently.
line of latitude	An imaginary, horizontal line around Earth.
mangrove forest	A large area of tropical trees that grow in saltwater.
originate	To come from a particular place.
principal	Main or most important.
terminate	The end of a journey.

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