

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**.



Environmental Regions of North America

What are the five physical regions?

- 1. Mountainous West**
- 2. Great Plain**
- 3. Canadian Shield**
- 4. Eastern Region**
- 5. Caribbean**

How Can You Compare Different Places?

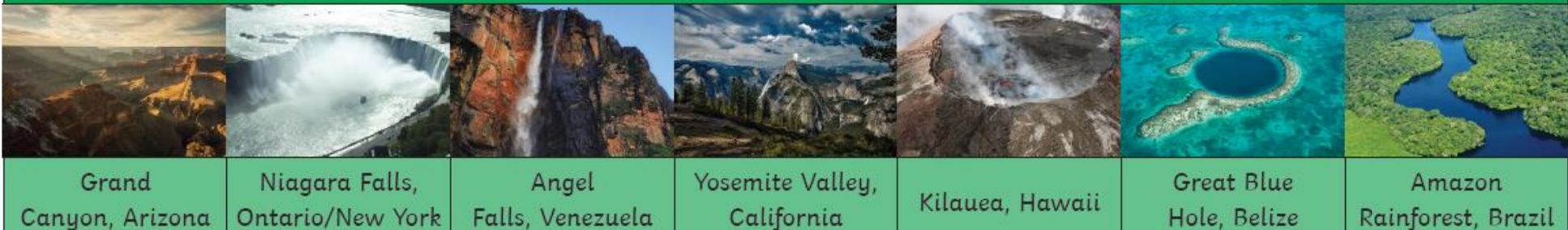
Physical Geography

The natural features of a place or environment.
 land-forms, mountains, volcanoes
 oceans and coastlines
 rivers and lakes
flora and **fauna**
biomes, **climate** and **weather**

Human Geography

Features of an environment that have been shaped by people.
country and region boundaries
 buildings, roads and land use (infrastructure)
 population, language, religion
 government, art and music
 industry, imports and exports

Some of the Natural Wonders of the Americas



Grand Canyon, Arizona

Niagara Falls, Ontario/New York

Angel Falls, Venezuela

Yosemite Valley, California

Kilauea, Hawaii

Great Blue Hole, Belize

Amazon Rainforest, Brazil

coniferous forest



Coniferous forests are found in cool climates with moderate rainfall. Evergreen trees are found here.

North America

grassland



Grasslands are large, open areas of land where the main plants are grasses.

South America

savannah



Savannah is an area of open land with grasses, shrubs and sometimes trees.

South America

tundra



Tundra is the coldest of the **biomes**. There is very little rain and snow and temperatures remain below freezing for most of the year.

North America

tropical rainforest



Rainforests are another type of biome. The Amazon rainforest is a tropical rainforest in South America. It is the largest rainforest in the world!

South America

desert



Deserts are a type of **biome** with little rainfall and vegetation.

North America

My locality – **Macclesfield**, Cheshire, England



- Population = 54,000
- Language = English
- Main religion = Christianity
- Land use = residential, agriculture, retail, leisure

An area of comparison – **Death Valley**, California, USA



- Population = 1000
- Language = English
- Main religion = Christianity
- Land use = leisure, residential, mining