

Yr 8 Key Words List - Geography

Natural Hazards

Active Fault	A fault that is considered likely to undergo renewed movement within a period of concern to humans. Faults are commonly considered to be active if they have moved one or more times in the last 10,000 years, but they may also be considered active when assessing the hazard for some applications even if movement has occurred in the last 500,000 years.
Active Volcano	A volcano that is currently erupting, or has erupted during recorded history.
Aftershock	Secondary tremors that may follow the largest shock of an earthquake sequence. Such tremors can extend over a period of weeks, months, or years
Ash (volcanic)	Fragments less than 2 millimetres (about 1/8 inch) in diameter of lava or rock blasted into the air by volcanic explosions.
Asthenosphere	The highly viscous mechanically weak region of the upper mantle of the Earth. It lies below the lithosphere, at depths between 100 and 200 km below the surface, but perhaps extending as deep as 400 km
Atmosphere	The layer of gases surrounding our planet Earth.
Avalanche	A rapid flow of snow down a sloping surface – can be caused by seismic events.
Caldera	A large depression formed from a collapsed magma chamber of a super volcano
California	Earthquakes are common in California as it is located on the San Andreas fault.
Cinder Cone Volcano	Steep-sided volcano made of loosely packed tephra
Collision	When two plates of continental crust meet 'head on' and buckle.
Composite volcano	A steep sided volcano that is made up of a variety of materials, such as lava and ash. a volcano formed by alternating layers of tephra and lava and that is found mostly where Earth's plates come together
Conservative plate margin	A plate margin where two plates are sliding alongside each other.
Constructive plate margin	A plate margin where two plates are moving apart.
Continental collision zone	A convergent plate boundary where continents are colliding together and creating mountains
Continental Drift	hypothesis proposed by Alfred Wegener that states that continents have moved slowly to their current locations on Earth
Continental Plate or Crust	Outermost solid layer of the earth that forms the continents and is composed of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks. Overall, the continental crust is broadly granitic in composition. Contrast with oceanic crust. A tectonic plate made of low density continental rock that will not sink under another plate.
Convection currents	The circular currents of heat in the mantle. cycle of heating, rising, cooling, and sinking that is thought to be the force behind plate tectonics
Core	The innermost layers of the Earth. The inner core is solid and has a radius of about 1300 kilometres. (The radius of the Earth is about 6371 kilometres.) The outer core is fluid and is about 2300 kilometres thick. S-waves cannot travel through the outer core.
Crater	Steep-walled depression around a volcano's vent
Crust	The outer layer of the earth varies in thickness from about 5km to 60km
Crystals	A crystal or crystalline solid is a solid material whose constituents, such as atoms, molecules or ions, are arranged in a highly ordered microscopic structure, forming a crystal lattice that extends in all directions.
Deep Earthquake	An earthquake whose focus is located more than 300 kilometres from the earth's surface. Earthquake-report.com differs from the official notification calling earthquakes with a depth of more than 100 km as "Deep". This is mainly because of the non-damaging impact of these earthquakes
Depth	The distance (usually measured in km) below the surface of the earth delineated by 0km (the mean spheroid). Also known as "earthquake depth." Earthquakes can occur anywhere between the Earth's surface and about 700 kilometres below the surface. For scientific purposes, this earthquake depth range of 0 to 700 km is divided into three zones: shallow, intermediate, and deep.

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Destructive plate margin	A plate margin where two plates are moving towards each other resulting in one plate sinking beneath the other
Dike	intrusive igneous rock body formed when magma is squeezed into a vertical crack that cuts across rock layers and hardens
Disaster	An event that causes major disruption on the economy, society and the environment. Its origin or causes may be directly derived from natural phenomena, i.e. geophysical (as volcanic or seismic events that cause collapse of infrastructure, landslides or liquefaction, etc.) or climatic (as hurricanes, typhoons, tornadoes, major variation in rainfall both in terms of excess or deficit causing drought). Although usually not covered by the methodology, disasters may also have a human or anthropic origin as chemical spills, industrial accidents, or voluntarily caused events such as war, terrorist actions, etc. Disaster consequences or damage will always be associated with human intervention before, during and after the event (the disaster cycle)
Disaster risk equation	A formula which tries to quantify the risk associated with a Hazard
Dormant volcano	An active volcano that is in repose (quiescence) but is expected to erupt in the future
Earthquake	A sudden and often violent shift in the rocks forming the earth's crust, which is felt at the surface caused by the rapid release of energy
Epicentre	The point on earth's surface that is vertically or directly above the focus of an earthquake
Eurasian plate	The Eurasian Plate is a tectonic plate which includes most of the continent of Eurasia (a landmass consisting of the traditional continents of Europe and Asia)
Extinct Volcano	A volcano that is not expected to erupt again.
Fault	A break or fracture in a rock mass across which movement has occurred
Focus (or hypocentre)	The point in the earth's crust where the earthquake begins - the point of origin of an earthquake
Fold mountains	Large mountain ranges where rock layers have been crumpled as they have been forced together.
Friction	The force resisting the relative motion of solid surfaces, fluid layer and material elements sliding against each other.
Geothermal	Water that is heated beneath the ground, which comes to the surface in a variety of ways.
Geyser	A geothermal feature in which water erupts into the air under pressure.
Hazard	Any physical phenomenon associated with an earthquake that may produce adverse effects on human activities. This includes surface faulting, ground shaking, landslides, liquefaction, tectonic deformation, tsunami, and their effects on land use, manmade structures, and socioeconomic systems. A commonly used restricted definition of earthquake hazard is the probability of occurrence of a specified level of ground shaking in a specified period of time.
Hazard maps	A map that shows areas that are at risk of hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, floods and tsunamis.
Hot spot	A section of the earth's crust where plumes of magma rise, weakening the crust. These are away from plate boundaries.
Inner Core	Very dense, solid centre of the Earth that is made of mostly iron with smaller amounts of oxygen, silicon, sulphur, or nickel
Intensity	The destructive effects of an earthquake on people and man-made things in a particular place. Intensity varies depending on distance from the focus, the nature of the surface materials, and the human development of an area.
Lahar	Mudflows resulting from ash mixing with melting ice or water - a secondary effect of a volcano.
Landslide	An abrupt movement of geological materials downhill in response to gravity. Landslides can be triggered by an earthquake or other natural causes.
Latitude	Part of a grid used for describing positions on earth's surface, consisting of parallel circles. A measurement, in degrees, of a place's distance north or south of the equator
Lava	The term used for magma once it has erupted onto the Earth's surface.
Lava Flow	Stream of molten rock that erupts relatively non-explosively from a volcano and moves slowly downslope.
LIC's	Low Income Countries

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Liquefaction	The transformation of a granular material from a solid state into a liquefied state as a consequence of increased pore water pressures and reduced effective stress. In engineering seismology, it refers to the loss of soil strength as a result of an increase in pore pressure due to ground motion. This effect can be caused by earthquake shaking
Lithosphere	Rigid, outermost layer of Earth that is about 100km thick, and is composed of the crust and part of the upper mantle
Longitude	Part of a grid used for describing positions on earth's surface, consisting of half circles joining at the poles. A measurement, in degrees, of a place's distance east or west of the prime meridian, which runs through Greenwich, England
Magma	Molten rock containing liquids, crystals, and dissolved gases that forms within the upper part of the Earth's mantle and crust. When erupted onto the Earth's surface, it is called lava.
Magnitude	The amount of energy released by an earthquake, described by the Moment Magnitude Scale; the Richter scale is no longer used for official reporting.
Main shock	The biggest earthquake in a series of shocks
Mantle	The dense or thick mostly solid shell or layer of dense, rocky matter that surrounds the earth's core beneath the crust. Generally located from 35km to 2900km below the earth's surface. The mantle is ductile (flexible) and composed primarily of magnesium-iron silicate minerals such as olivine. It has an upper, partially-molten section, which is the source of magma and volcanic lava
NEE's	Newly Emerging Economy Countries
Mercalli scale	A means of measuring earthquakes by describing and comparing the damage done, on a scale of I to XII.(MMI)
Molten rock	Lava is molten rock
Normal fault	Break in rock due to tension forces, where rock above the fault surface moves downward in relation to rock below the fault surface
Ocean trenches	Deep sections of the ocean, usually where an oceanic plate is sinking below a continental plate.
Oceanic Plate or crust	A tectonic plate made of dense iron rich rock that forms the ocean floor. The outermost solid layer of Earth that underlies the oceans. Composed of the igneous rocks basalt and gabbro, and therefore basaltic in composition. Contrast with continental crust.
Outer Core	Liquid core that surrounds Earth's solid inner core, and that is made mostly of iron
Pangaea	single large landmass made up of all the continents connected together that broke apart 200 million years ago
Plate	A section of the earth's crust
Plate margin or boundaries	The boundary where two plates meet.
Plate tectonics	The theory that explains the movement and interactions of plates, which are segments of the Earth's crust. The plates move slowly and continuously, and their interactions generate earthquakes, volcanoes, and mountains.
Prediction	A prediction or forecast is a statement about the way things will happen in the future, often but not always based on experience or knowledge.
Pyroclastic Flow	A hot, fast-moving and high-density mixture of fine and coarse particles and gas formed during explosive eruptions or from the collapse of a lava dome.
Radius	The distance from the centre of a circle to any point on its circumference
Resilience	The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions. Comment: Resilience means the ability to bounce back from a shock. The resilience of a community in respect to potential hazard events is determined by the degree to which the community has the necessary resources and is capable of organizing itself both prior to and during times of need.
Richter scale	A scale ranging from 0 to 10 used for measuring earthquakes, based on scientific recordings of the amount of movement.
Ring of Fire	The Ring of Fire is an area where a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur in the basin of the Pacific Ocean.

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Risk	The probabilistic determination of the damages a certain hazard can cause given the existing vulnerability, location and time.
Seafloor Spreading	Theory that magma from below Earth's crust is forced upward toward the surface at a mid-ocean ridge, flows from the cracks as the seafloor spreads apart and becomes solid as it cools, forming new seafloor
Seismic	Of or having to do with earthquakes.
Seismic waves	Energy waves that are produced at and travel outward from the earthquake's focus
Seismograph	Any of various instruments for measuring and recording the vibrations of earthquakes
Seismologist	Scientist who studies earthquakes and seismic waves
Shield volcano	A broad volcano that is mostly made up of lava – has gently sloping sides
Shock waves	Seismic waves generated by an earthquake that pass through the earth's crust.
Sill	Intrusive igneous rock body formed when magma is squeezed into a horizontal crack that cuts across rock layers and hardens
Subduction	When oceanic crust sinks under continental crust at a destructive margin.
Subduction zone	An area where oceanic crust and continental crust are colliding. The denser oceanic crust is subducted under the continental crust resulting in mountains and volcanoes.
Super volcano	A mega colossal volcano that erupts at least 1000km ³ of material.
Surface Waves	Waves of energy that reach Earth's surface during an earthquake, travel outward from the epicentre, and move rock particles up and down, and side to side
Tectonic plate	The lithosphere, which is the rigid outermost shell of a planet (on Earth, the crust and upper mantle), is broken up into tectonic plates
Tephra	Bits of rock or solidified lava dropped from the air (often called bombs)
Tremor	The shaking or trembling of the earth
Tsunami	A special type of wave where an event, often an earthquake, moves the entire depth of the water above. powerful seismic sea wave that can travel thousands of kilometres in all directions and that begins over an earthquake focus
Vent	An opening on Earth's surface where magma is forced up and flows out as lava
Volcanic Neck	Solid, igneous core of a volcano left behind when a volcano stops erupting
Volcano	An opening in the earth's crust through which molten lava, ash and gases are ejected.
Wave	A transference of energy
Wegener	Alfred Lothar Wegener (1880-1930) most remembered for advancing theory of continental drift

Sustainability

Carbon footprint

How much CO₂ (Carbon dioxide) is released to make or move something.

Kyoto Protocol 1997/2005

International agreement of the UN to reduce carbon emissions and slow climate change.

Fossil fuels

Coal, Oil, Natural gas, petrol etc.

Renewable energy

Energy sources that will not run out: wind, wave, tidal, solar, geothermal etc.

Coral bleaching

Destruction of coral reefs due to rising sea temperatures.

Biodegradable

A product or material capable of decomposing naturally within a reasonably short period of time.

Food miles

Refers to the distance food is transported from where it is made to where it reaches consumers.

Marine reserve

A protected area of sea/ocean from fishing or industrial work and tourism.

Deforestation

Cutting down of forests.

Zero carbon/ Carbon neutral

A product or service which creates no CO₂ or offsets emissions by turning them into harmless waste substances.

Corporate responsibility

Actions that businesses take to protect people and the environment within their operations.

Eco City

Cities which use the least possible resources and keep waste to a minimum.

Sustainable development

Allowing growth that does not have negative impacts on the economy, society or environment.

Uneven Development

Social – Relating to the infrastructure of a country (e.g. education, healthcare, and transport), communities or quality of life.

Economic – Relating to the economy (money) and jobs.

Environmental – Relating to the physical (natural) world or to the built environment (e.g. cities).

Physical Features – Natural features of the world that would exist even if humans were not around. For example; trees, rivers, animals.

Human Features – Features that have been created by humans. For example; cities, landmarks, roads.

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Development – The progress of a country which is judged on its economy, the use of technology and human welfare.

Scarcity – Something is in short supply.

Sanitation – Methods to protect public health, such as providing clean water and disposing of sewage and waste safely.

Life Expectancy – The average number of years someone is expected to live.

Literacy Rate – The percentage of people who can read and write.

Health – A person's mental and physical condition. Being in good health will mean that you are free from illness and injury.

HDI (The Human Development Index) – A method of measuring development. It combines GDP per capita, life expectancy and adult literacy rate.

GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per Capita – The total value of everything produced by people and businesses in a country divided by the number of people in that country. It is a way of measuring the wealth of a country.

Wealth – The amount of money and resources available.

Drought – A long period of time with abnormally low rainfall that leads to a shortage of water.

Famine – A widespread extreme shortage of food.

Waterborne Diseases – Diseases caused by micro-organisms that live in contaminated water. For example, cholera and typhoid.

Poverty – The state of being extremely poor.

Fair Trade – Producers (farmers) in LICs are given a fair price for their goods.

LIC (Low Income Country) – A poor country.

HIC (High Income Country) – A rich country.

MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) – Eight goals with clear targets that the UN created to improve the lives of the world's poorest people. They expired at the end of 2015.

SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) – Seventeen new goals with clear targets indicators created by the UN to replace MDGs. The aim of SDGs is to improve the lives of the world's poorest people whilst protecting the environment.

Population Density – The number of people who live in a km².

Migration – When people move from one area to another.

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Primary Sector – Industry involving the extraction or obtaining of raw materials. For example, farming, oil drilling.

Secondary Sector – Industry involving turning raw materials into a finished product. For example, baking, car manufacturing.

Tertiary Sector – Industry involving supporting the distribution of products and skills. For example, teaching, lorry driving, doctors.

NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) – A charity that supports/campaigns for a social or political issue.

DTM (Demographic Transition Model) – Shows the population of a country through different stages of its development. It shows how the birth rate and death rate can affect the population of a country.