

Sycamore Topic Knowledge Organiser - Spring 1: The World and Maps

Key Vocabulary	
continent	A very large area of land that includes all the islands with it.
ocean	A large area of sea.
population	The number of people that live in a particular place.
landmark	A well-known building or place.
Australasia	The continent of Australasia is often referred to as just Australia. It has about 28 countries and island groups.
desert	A large area of land that has very little rainfall and where not much grows.
rainforest	A large area of land with lots of tall trees and plenty of rainfall.

Continents

There are seven **continents**: Africa, Antarctica, Asia, **Australasia**, Europe, North America and South America. Some **continents** have many countries, others do not.

Continent Facts

Half the world's **population** live in Asia.

The largest **desert** in the world (the Sahara) is in Africa.

North America is twice the size of Europe.

Over half of Australia is **desert** or receives little rain.

The Amazon **rainforest** is in South America.

Antarctica is known as the 'frozen continent.'

World Oceans


There are five **oceans** in the world: the Arctic Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Southern Ocean.

Continent Facts

Natural features include caves, rocks, cliffs, forests and mountains. Natural features are sometimes called 'physical features.'

Features made by people include bridges, buildings and roads.

These features are sometimes called 'human features.'




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Key Vocabulary	
compass	A piece of equipment that tells you what direction you are travelling in. The main compass points are north, south, east and west.
climate	The usual weather conditions of an area.
equator	An imaginary line drawn around the middle of Earth, dividing it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.
tropical	Hot and humid.
temperate	Mild weather. Neither very hot nor very cold.
capital city	An important city, often where the government works.



Using an Atlas

An **atlas** shows maps of **continents**, countries, **oceans** and the **physical features** of a place. Its contents page shows a list of all the maps and the page that they can be found on. The index page lists, in alphabetical order, all of the countries, cities and towns that can be found in the **atlas** and shows which page number to look on.

What Is a Map?

A map is a drawing of an actual place that uses lines and **symbols** to represent real-life objects. People have used maps for hundreds of years to help them travel from place to place.

Compass Directions

People use a **compass** to help them position and use a map accurately. The main points of a **compass** are north, south, east and west.



Woodland	River
Moor Land	Viewpoint
Lake	Castle
Contour Line	Church
Road	Water Fowl
Woodland Boundary	

