

Access How easy it is to obtain a good or service. It can be measured in terms of cost, time or distance.

African Union (AU) Created in 2002, this organisation brings together the governments of 53 African states. The AU aims to develop peace, unity and integration within the African continent.

Afrikaners People in South Africa who speak Afrikaans and who are descended from settlers from north-west Europe – mainly Dutch people from the Netherlands.

Algae Small plants that live in or near water and have no true stem, leaves or roots.

Apartheid The word means ‘separateness’ in Dutch. In South Africa it was a system of legal racial segregation which was enforced by the National Party government from 1948 to 1994. The legacy of apartheid still influences politics and society in South Africa.

Arable The growing of crops, e.g. wheat.

Barrage A low dam built across a wide stretch of water such as a large estuary in order to use the water held behind it to make electricity.

Bay Part of the sea that fills a wide-mouthed opening in the coastline.

Birth rate The number of births per year per 1000 population.

Bush meat The meat of wild animals that are killed for subsistence or commercial reasons, mainly in tropical areas and LEDCs.

Capitalism An economic system in which the majority of goods and services are owned and managed by individuals and companies rather than by the state.

Cash crop A crop grown for sale rather than for subsistence.

Census An official count of the population carried out at regular intervals.

Colony A country that has been taken over and ruled by another country.

Communism A system of government where most goods and services are owned and managed by the state and little private enterprise is allowed.

Commuting The process of travelling some distance to work, usually from villages and suburbs into the central areas of a town or city.

Comparison goods High order goods that, due to their high price, purchasers wish to compare. People are willing to travel long distances to buy them.

Comprehensive redevelopment A housing policy that involves the clearing of areas of low-quality buildings and replacing them with a new higher-quality environment.

Conservation The care of species, resources and environments so that they will survive for future generations.

Convection currents Differences in temperature of material beneath the plates of the Earth’s crust leads to the creation of currents to transfer the heat. These currents move the plates above them. The term also applies when air is heated and rises in the atmosphere.

Convenience goods Low order goods and services that are cheap and bought often. People are not willing to travel far to buy them.

Converging When plates are moving towards each other at a plate boundary.

Counter-urbanisation The process by which an increasing number of people within a country live in the countryside instead of in towns and cities. This could be the result of natural increase and/or migration.

Cyclone An area of low atmospheric pressure, e.g. below 980 mb. A tropical cyclone, with pressure often below 970 mb, is also known as a hurricane in North America and the Caribbean.

Death rate The number of deaths per year per 1000 population.

Decomposition The changing of rocks by chemical action causing a change in composition.

Deforestation Cutting down trees without replacing them.

Delta A landform, often triangular in shape, that develops where a river meets a slow-moving body of water such as a lake or ocean. Sediment builds up above the water level, forcing the river to split into distributaries to form a delta.

Demography The study of human populations – their size, distribution and composition.

Desalination The extraction of fresh water from salty sea water.

Desert A dry area, hot or cold, where total annual precipitation is less than 250 mm.

Disintegration Physical breaking down of rocks into smaller fragments with no change in their chemical composition.

Distributary A stream channel resulting from the division of a larger stream channel.

Diverging When plates are moving away from each other at a plate boundary.

Ecosystem A system of links between plants and animals (the living community) and the habitats where they live, including the non-living environment.

Emigrants People who permanently leave one country to live in another.

Emigration The permanent movement of people outward from a country.

Epicentre The point on the surface directly above where an earthquake has taken place.

Erosion The wearing away and removal of rocks by the action of the agents of erosion – wind, water, ice, gravity.

Escarpment A long ridge of high ground, often with a scarp (steep) and dip (gentle) slope.

Extensive farming Where there are small inputs of capital and labour compared with the large amount of land used, e.g. cattle-rearing. Yields per hectare are low.

Fauna Animals (including birds and insects) of an area.

Fertility rate In a country or region the average number of children a woman will have in her lifetime.

Flora Plants of an area.

Food & Agricultural Organisation (FAO) The FAO, based in Rome, Italy, is part of the United Nations. The organisation was created in 1945 to lead UN efforts to defeat hunger in both LEDCs and MEDCs.

Formal employment Official jobs with set hours and rates of pay. People who are formally employed pay direct taxes to the government.

Fossil fuel Any fuel found underground that is made up of the remains of plants and/or animals. Oil, natural gas, coal, brown coal and peat are all fossil fuels.

GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per person The total value of all the goods and services produced in a country in one year by all the people living in that country, divided by the population. It is used as a measure of wealth.

Geothermal power Energy gathered from the natural heat produced by rocks deep underground.

Glacial To do with ice, its movements and the features formed by it.

Headland A point of higher land jutting out into the sea, usually made of a resistant rock such as granite.

Hierarchy Any kind of organisation based on rank, class and order, e.g. a settlement hierarchy places cities, towns and villages in order of size or status.

High order Goods or services that are bought infrequently and are often expensive.

Hydro-electric power (HEP) Electricity generated by using moving water to turn turbines.

Immigration The permanent movement of people inward to a country.

Independence When a government takes on sole responsibility for making decisions about how to run the country it governs.

Industrial Revolution The period of time in a country or region's development when it changes from being mainly a rural agricultural society with small-scale cottage industries to one that is based on large-scale manufacturing industry in urban areas.

Informal employment Unofficial jobs that have no set hours or rates of pay. People who are informally employed may avoid paying tax and are usually self-employed.

Infrastructure The pattern of communication and transport links, power supplies, administrative, health, education and other services necessary for economic development.

Insolation The amount of sun's energy reaching the Earth's surface.

Intensive farming Where there are large inputs of capital and labour compared with the small amount of land used, e.g. battery hen farming. Yields per hectare are high.

Internally displaced people (IDPs) People who are forced to leave their homes but who are not refugees because they stay within the country's borders.

International migration The movement of people on a permanent basis between countries.

Irrigated Land that has water added to it for farming purposes. This can involve sprinklers, canals, lifting devices. It is usually required where rainfall is below 500 mm per year.

Lagoon A bay or sea inlet that is partly enclosed by a spit or wholly enclosed by a sand bar.

Lateral erosion Where a stream or river wears away the sides and banks on each side of the channel.

Lava Magma that has escaped from beneath the Earth's crust and has flowed onto the surface.

LEDC A less economically developed country as defined by the Brandt Report (1980).

Low order Goods or services that are bought frequently and which are usually cheap.

Magma Molten rock found beneath the Earth's crust.

Margin of cultivation Land towards the edge of a cultivable area on which it is just possible to farm economically.

MEDC A more economically developed country as defined by the Brandt Report (1980).

Metropolitan Refers to a single urban settlement of outstanding size and importance which has absorbed other urban areas. It is often the capital city of the country. The Greater Tokyo Metropolitan area is the largest, containing about 35 million people.

Migration The permanent, seasonal or temporary movement of people.

Monsoon Derived from the Arabic word *mawsam*, meaning season. It is a seasonal change of wind direction. The monsoon refers to both dry and wet seasons, although its common use refers to the wet season only.

National Park Area of such outstanding scenery that the government has put in place very strict checks on any new development.

Natural population change Change in population caused by birth and death rates only.

Newly industrialised countries (NICs) These countries, mostly based in south-east Asia, showed rapid growth in the late 20th century, largely through the creation and expansion of multinational companies based on modern technology and IT.

Nomadic People, usually farmers, who move from place to place seasonally to find good land or pasture.

Non-renewable Energy sources that are limited and finite. Once used up there are no future supplies available, e.g. oil, coal, natural gas.

Nutrients Proteins, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals provided by food and necessary for growth and the maintenance of life.

Overall population change Change in population caused by births, deaths and migration.

Overpopulated When a country or region does not have enough resources to keep its people at a reasonable standard of living.

Pass laws Introduced in 1923, the pass laws were designed by the South African government to prevent freedom of movement of non-whites who had to carry pass books at all times to prove they were authorised to live and work in 'white' South Africa.

Passport An official document that certifies a person's identity, nationality and citizenship of a country. It enables travel between countries and entitles the holder to protection overseas.

Pastoral The raising of animals on grass, e.g. cattle, sheep, goats.

Pastoralists Farmers whose main concern is the raising of animals using grass and pasture, e.g. cattle, sheep, goats.

Photosynthesis The process whereby plants take in the sun's energy with carbon dioxide and water to produce energy, oxygen and plant tissue.

Plateau Large area of relatively flat upland.

Population density The average number of people in a given area, e.g. per km².

Population pyramid A diagram showing the ages and gender of the population of an area.

Prevailing wind The direction from which the wind blows into an area for most of the year.

Range The distance people are prepared to travel to buy a good or a service, e.g. low order goods and services have a small range; high order goods and services have a large range.

Rapid transit system A railway system for passengers that is run by electricity both over- and underground and has high capacity and frequency. London's underground system was the first rapid-transit system, built in 1863. More than 160 cities now have them.

Reclamation To use or re-use resources that are serving no worthwhile purpose at present, e.g. derelict sites in inner-city areas, marshy land.

Renewable Resources that can be used without endangering future supplies, e.g. solar energy.

Rural To do with villages and the countryside.

Rural-urban fringe The area on the very edge of a town or city where it meets the countryside.

Savanna Tropical grasslands that lie between tropical rainforests where it is wetter and hot desert where it is drier.

Sedentary Farmers who are settled in one particular place.

Sedimentary rock Material that has been deposited by the force which originally carried it from elsewhere, e.g. wind, water or ice. It can also consist of the accumulated remains of dead sea animals, e.g. limestone.

Shifting cultivation A farming system often found in rainforests in LEDCs where a patch of land is cleared, crops are grown, then the patch is deserted until it regains its fertility.

Sphere of influence The area surrounding an activity that is influenced by it, e.g. a sports centre or a local park. It is also called the catchment area.

Spit A sand ridge, usually curving, that is joined to the land at one end and juts out into the sea at the other.

Standard of living The factors that affect a person's quality of life and which can be measured. Many measures to do with a person's standard of living are to do with material possessions.

Subsistence agriculture A means of supporting life by being able to meet one's own basic needs of food, water and shelter.

Sub-tropical Referring to those areas of the Earth that lie between the Tropic of Cancer (23½°N) and 40°N and the Tropic of Capricorn (23½°S) and 40°S.

Sustainable Capable, by careful use and management, of being maintained over time for future generations to use or enjoy whilst meeting the needs of the present.

Tectonic plates Rigid segments of rock that make up the Earth's crust. They meet at plate boundaries where earthquakes, volcanoes and fold mountains are created.

Temperate Areas that do not experience great extremes of heat or cold. They are in the mid-latitudes between the hot tropics and cold polar regions both in the northern and southern hemispheres.

Tenement A building that is split up into several apartments or flats.

Thermal power Energy generated by heating water to make steam which then turns turbines to create electricity. The heat source can be coal, oil, gas, geothermal or nuclear.

Threshold population The number of people needed to justify the provision of a good or service.

Tidal power Energy based on the movements of the tide. This works best where there is a large tidal range – that is, a large difference between the high-tide and low-tide levels.

Townships Urban living areas built on the edges of towns and cities that, under apartheid in South Africa, were reserved for non-whites (mainly black Africans, coloureds* and some working-class Indians). [*See note on page 122*]

Transmigration The relocation of a large number of people as a result of a government plan.

Tropical Parts of the Earth that lie between the Tropic of Cancer ($23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{N}$) and the Tropic of Capricorn ($23\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}\text{S}$).

Tundra Areas in Alaska, northern Canada, northern Europe and Asia where the ground is permanently frozen for most of the year. Only lichen, moss, grasses and dwarf shrubs and trees can grow here.

Underpopulated When a country or region has more resources available than are being used by the people living there.

United Nations (UN) An organisation made up of delegates from almost all countries of the world, created in 1945. The UN headquarters are in New York. It deals with issues of global importance including those related to global development.

Urban To do with towns and cities.

Urbanisation The process by which an increasing proportion of people live in towns and cities instead of the countryside. This could be the result of natural increase and/or migration.

Urban regeneration The renewal of a declining part of a town or city by removing existing houses and buildings as well as redeveloping the area.

Urban renewal The process whereby the derelict areas of a town or city are improved by upgrading existing buildings. This process is sometimes known as gentrification.

Urban sprawl The expansion of the city into its surrounding rural area.

Vertical erosion Where a stream or river flowing quickly down a steep gradient in an upland area wears away the bed at a faster rate than the valley sides, leading to a narrow V-shaped valley.

Visa An additional requirement to a passport, usually given by endorsing the passport, allowing entry into some countries.

Weathering The breakdown of rocks by elements of the weather or biological influences but not their physical removal, e.g. frost, alternate heat and cold, tree roots, burrowing animals.

Workforce That part of the population of a country that is employed. In MEDCs this is usually those aged between 16 and 65; in LEDCs this often starts at a lower age.

World Bank An organisation set up by MEDCs in 1944 with its headquarters in Washington DC, USA. It contributes funds to be loaned to LEDCs for development projects.