

Key Vocabulary

biome: a geographical region of the world with a particular climate, plants and animals.

climate: the long-term pattern of weather within an area.

county: a specific region of a state or country.

economy: the wealth created by the production and buying and selling of goods.

human feature: something made or built by humans.

landmark: a recognisable feature of a place or landscape.

physical feature: a natural part of the land such as rivers or cliffs.

region: a particular area

settlement: a place where people live.

state: a tropical storm originating in the Pacific Ocean.

topography: the study of the shape and physical features of the land.

North America

The continent of North America is located in the northern and western hemispheres. By area, North America is the third largest continent in the world; and the fourth largest by population. It is bordered by four different bodies of water: the Arctic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, and it is home to 23 different countries. Because of the diverse climate in North America, it is home to many different biomes. It also contains a variety of physical geographical features, such as the Rocky Mountains and the Grand Canyon, as well as many famous human landmarks like the Statue of Liberty.



South America

The continent of South America is located primarily in the southern hemisphere. By area, South America is the fourth largest continent in the world; and the fifth largest when considering population. It is bordered by three different bodies of water: the Caribbean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean and it is home to 12 different countries. Like North America, it has a diverse climate and is home to different biomes, climate zones and vegetation belts. It also contains a variety of physical geographical features such as the Amazon River, as well as famous landmarks such as Christ the Redeemer in Brazil.

Comparing the West Midlands and the Western United States:

The Western United States covers a huge area; some of the 13 states are bigger than the UK. Because of the scale of the Western United States, there are many different biomes, climates and vegetation belts, unlike the West Midlands. Cities there tend to be crowded, but large, vast areas are sparsely populated and empty compared with the densely populated UK. This is partly due to the geographical landscape. However, some states like Oregon, do share some similarities with the West Midlands.



Comparing Birmingham and Sao Paulo:

Birmingham and Sao Paulo are both cities. Sao Paulo is much bigger in terms of area and population. The population density is also higher. Both contribute significantly to their country's economy; however Sao Paulo is the wealthiest city in Brazil whereas Birmingham is the third wealthiest city in the UK. There are also differences in their climate and geographical landscape.