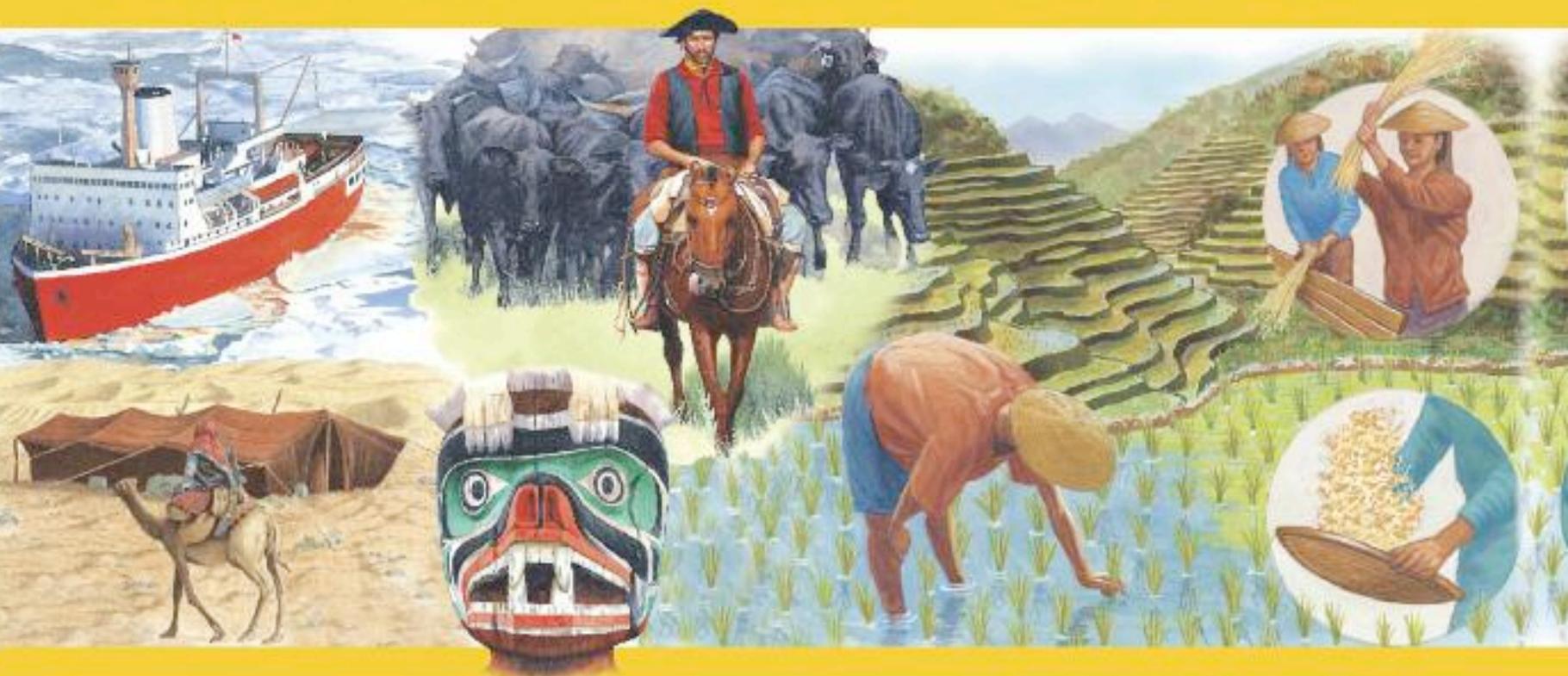
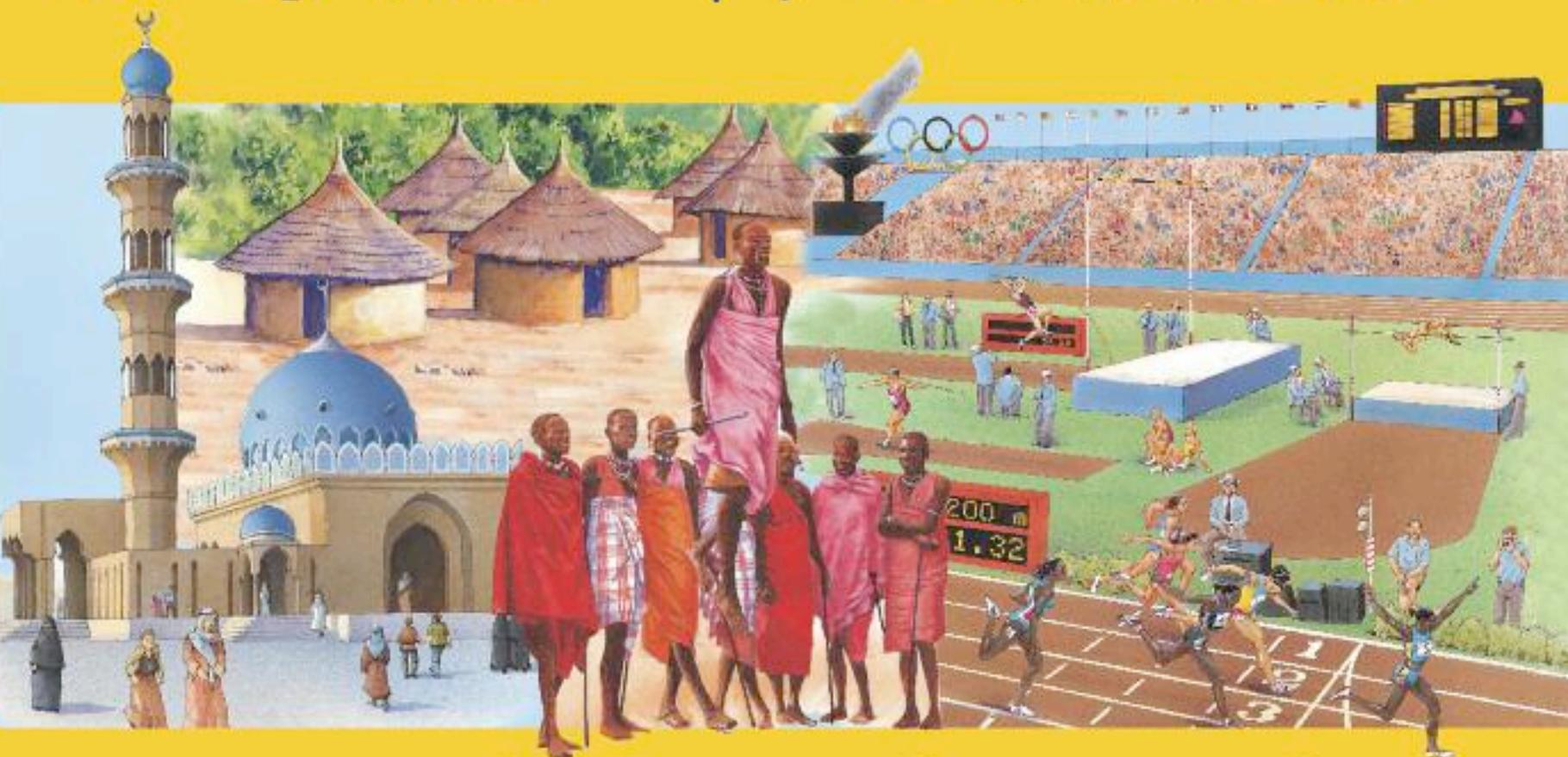


ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA



OUR WORLD



More than 250 keywords

ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA

OUR WORLD



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OUR WORLD



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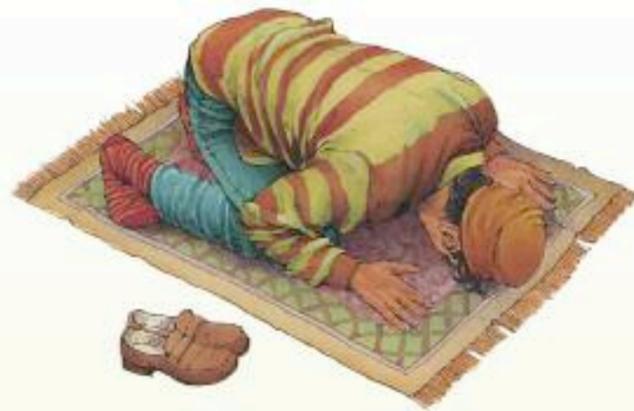
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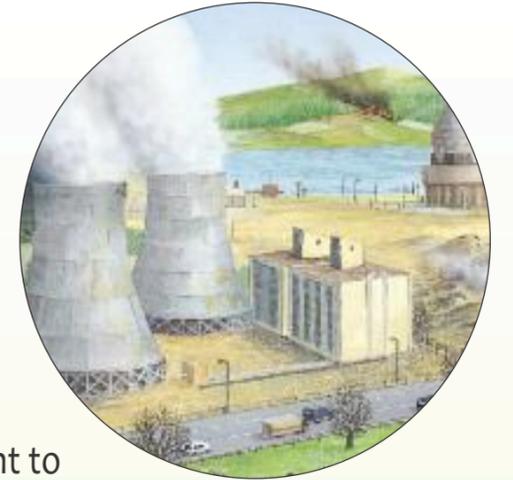
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ABOUT THIS BOOK

Each double page contains a brief introduction, explaining the general subject, followed by key words arranged in alphabetical order. To look up a specific word, turn to the index at the back of this book: this will tell you which page to go to. If you want to learn more about a subject, take a look at the factfile, or follow the arrows to read related entries.



INTRODUCTION
This explains the general subject and provides some basic knowledge.

BOLD WORDS
These highlight useful words that do not have their own entry.

PAGE NUMBER
Page numbers are easy to find at the side of the page.

ENVIRONMENT

Pople have made many changes to the world we live in and some of these have had harmful effects. Emissions from factories, vehicles, planes and power stations pollute the sea and air and add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. As the world population increases, forests are cut down to make room for new housing and farmland, removing the natural habitats of many animals. Some species are already threatened with extinction.

GREENHOUSE EFFECT

Accidental pollution The accidental release of pollutants into the environment, for example, when a ship carrying oil is wrecked and leaks oil into the ocean. This may kill or harm thousands of animals.

If global warming causes the polar ice caps to melt, sea levels will rise. This may result in many coastal cities everywhere being flooded by sea water.

Desertification has left Lake Aral in Russia partially dried up.

Acid rain Rain containing acids that form in the atmosphere when gases emitted by factories and power stations combine with water. Acid rain harms wildlife in lakes, rivers and streams and makes soil too acidic to support plant life.

Air pollution Pollution of the air, caused by fumes and smoke from vehicles, factory chimneys and power stations. Air pollution adds to the greenhouse effect and causes respiratory illnesses, such as asthma.

Biodegradable waste Organic waste, such as food, which decomposes naturally. The decomposition of biodegradable products may release methane, a greenhouse gas.

Chemical waste Any waste made from harmful chemicals. Large areas of the Earth are now partially poisoned by chemical wastes, which harm animals and plants and can expose people to new diseases.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) Chemicals used in refrigerators and some aerosol sprays. When released into the atmosphere, CFCs destroy the ozone layer. Their production in recent years has been greatly reduced.

Climate change Changes to the Earth's weather patterns. Rapid climate change in recent years has been caused by burning fossil fuels and creating excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Rising temperatures may lead to violent storms, droughts and rising sea levels as the polar ice caps melt.

Conservation The management and care of the natural world, to avoid imbalances caused by habitat destruction and the extinction (dying out) of species.

Rubbish being dumped in a landfill

Desertification The process by which forest, grassland or shrub turns to desert. Deserts may be created as a result of persistent drought, or may be made man-made, for example, by farmers over-grazing animals on grassland or diverting rivers and lakes to water nearby crops. There is nearly three times as much desert now as there was 100 years ago.

A duck covered in oil after an oil tanker spill

Incineration Burning waste material to dispose of it. More countries are turning to this as a means of waste disposal as their landfill sites run out. The heat this causes can be used to generate electricity but the gases given off by burning waste can contribute to air pollution.

Landfill A place where rubbish is disposed of, usually by burying it. Landfills are the most widely-used method of waste disposal.

Sources of pollution: Aircraft exhaust gases (1), industrial pollution (2), forest clearance (3), nuclear power station (4), coal power station (5), landfill site (6) and vehicle emissions (7).

Eutrophication Excessive nutrients in a lake or river, often caused by chemical fertilizers (1) leaking from the soil. Eutrophication causes a dense growth of water plants, which then decay, depleting the water of oxygen and killing fish.

Global warming The gradual rise in the temperature of the Earth. Over the past century, the average temperature has risen by more than 0.5°C. Most scientists agree this is caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases through burning fossil fuels.

Greenhouse effect The warming of the Earth caused by certain gases in the atmosphere that trap some of the Sun's heat. These gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, are called **greenhouse gases**. If they build up excessively, caused by burning fossil fuels (1) like coal and oil, too much heat is trapped and the Earth becomes warmer.

Ozone layer The thin layer of ozone gas in the Earth's atmosphere. It prevents harmful rays from the Sun reaching the Earth. The release of some chemicals, such as CFCs, into the air damages the ozone layer, allowing more radiation from the Sun to reach the Earth's surface.

Pesticide drift The unintentional drift of chemical pesticides (1) from crops into soil or water, where they poison plants and animals.

Pollution The harmful effect on the natural environment of by-products of human activity such as chemicals, sewage, pesticides and noise.

Recycling The process of turning wastes, such as glass, metal, paper or plastics, into new objects. This reduces the need for landfills and incineration. Many towns have recycling collectors or bins where people can take their recycling.

FACTFILE

- Greenhouse gas emissions keep rising at the current pace, world temperatures could rise by up to 4.5°C by 2100.
- The largest ocean oil spill ever occurred in April 2010, when an oil rig (1) off the coast of Louisiana, USA, exploded. The explosion killed 11 workers and the oil spill is thought to have killed over 8000 fish, turtles, marine mammals and seabirds.
- The ozone layer absorbs 97-99% of the Sun's ultraviolet rays.
- Every tonne of paper recycled saves around 17 trees.
- It takes 70% less energy to make recycled paper than to make paper from fresh wood pulp.

KEY WORDS AND ENTRIES
Key words are arranged alphabetically across each double page. Each entry provides a short explanation of what the key word means.

ARROWS
These arrows show you where to look up other words mentioned in the entry. For example, (1) tells you to go forward to page 26 and (6) tells you to turn back to page 6.

FACTFILE
The factfile provides extra information on the subject. Facts are presented in easy to read bullet points.

POPULATION

The world population underwent a massive increase during the 20th century. In 1900 it stood at 1.6 billion. Today, the world population is nearly 7 billion, and is still increasing. The main cause of this increase is the fall in death rates as a result of improving health care, meaning that fewer children die in infancy, and adults are living much longer. The population of a country is constantly fluctuating, changed each day by births, deaths, immigrations and emigrations.

City A large, important town. Every country has a capital city, generally where its government is based. Other cities have grown up around ports and industries.



Shoppers on a crowded street in London, UK

Birth rate A measure of the number of births in a population, usually expressed in births per 1000 people per year. The lowest birth rate is in Japan, where it is just 7.31. The highest is in Niger, where it is 50.54.

Culture The way of life of a particular society of people, including their beliefs, values, customs, dress and language.

Death rate A measure of the number of deaths in a population, usually expressed in deaths per 1000 people per year. The highest death rate is in Angola, where it is 23.4. The lowest is in the United Arab Emirates, where it is 2.06.

Census An official count of a country's population, usually carried out every 10 years. It may also collect other data, such as the religion and income of households.

Emigrate To leave the country of one's birth in order to settle and work elsewhere, or to escape hardship in one's home country. A person leaving a country is called an **emigrant** and a person entering a country is called an **immigrant**.

Ethnic group A community of people who may share certain physical characteristics, or who have the same language, religion or customs, and who feel a common sense of identity.

Indigenous A person who was born in the country or region in which they live. The word indigenous is mostly used to refer to people that lived in a country before a foreign people or culture took over the region.

Megalopolis A "supercity" made up of several cities that have grown so big they have started to merge together. Their joint populations may amount to tens or even hundreds of millions of people. The region of the eastern USA from Boston via New York and Philadelphia to Washington is an example of a megalopolis.



This night-time view of the world reveals its cities and densely populated areas as bright lights.

Multiculturalism The acceptance of multiple cultures within one region. For example, the United States is usually considered a multicultural country. It is home to people from a range of countries, who bring their own traditions and culture to the USA.

Population The people of a country, city or other specific area.

Population density The number of people in a given area, usually measured in people per square kilometre. Population density is often calculated for a city or country. The world's most densely populated cities are in southern and eastern Asia.

Population growth The increase in the number of people in a region over time.

Population policies Government plans intended either to increase or decrease their country's population. In 1978, China, the country with the highest population in the world, introduced a policy in which many families were forbidden from having more than one child. As a result the birth rate dropped from 33.43 in 1970 to 12.29 in 2011. Other countries, such as Italy and Malaysia, seek to increase their birth rate and population by offering parents financial incentives.



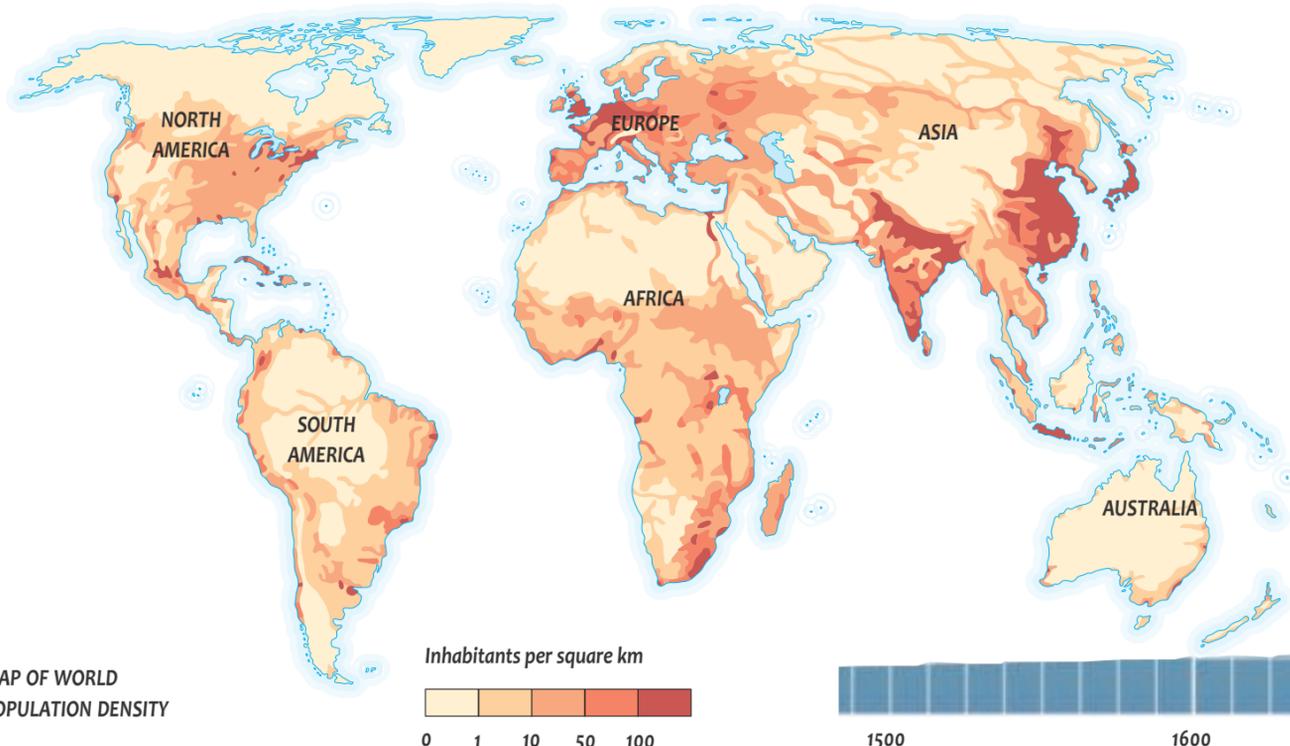
Japan's capital city, Tokyo, has a high population density. The subway trains are often very crowded.

Overpopulation Having a greater population than can be sustained by an area's resources. Some people think that if the human population continues to grow at the present rate, there will be severe shortages of food, fuel and fresh water.

FACTFILE

- ★ According to the United Nations, the world population will reach at least 9 billion by 2050.
- ★ Asia makes up over 60% of the world's population. It is home to around 4 billion people.
- ★ It is estimated that two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities by the year 2025.
- ★ Cities cover only 2% of the world's surface, but use 75% of its resources.
- ★ The world's largest city by population is the supercity of Tokyo-Yokohama, in Japan. Surrounded by mountains, space for building is limited, so some land has been "reclaimed" from the sea.
- ★ The study of human populations is called "demography".

This chart shows the dramatic rise in population during the 20th century and early 21st century. Three billion people are now entering their reproductive years—equal to the entire world population in 1960.



MAP OF WORLD POPULATION DENSITY

Inhabitants per square km
0 1 10 50 100

1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000

GOVERNMENT

A government is a system by which authority is exercised over the people. It may control a city, state or country. Governments make decisions about public services, such as health, education and transport, and decide how to raise money to pay for them. Most countries are members of international organizations. These exist to help co-operation between them on a number of different issues including economic development, defence, peacekeeping, health, conservation and climate change.

African Union (AU) An organization of 54 African countries, established in 2002 to promote unity and an end to war in Africa.

Arab League An organization formed in 1945 to promote co-operation between Arab countries.

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) An organization of states that were once members of the Soviet Union (Russia and the surrounding states before 1991). It was established with the aim of improving trade and security.

Constitution Documents that outline the powers of a government and how it should operate. Most democratic countries follow a constitution.

Country A geographical region with its own government.

The Kremlin in Moscow was once a medieval fortress. It is now the home of the president and the government of the Russian Federation.



US President Barack Obama speaking at a session in Congress in 2009.

Democracy A form of government where people have a say in how the government runs, usually by electing a candidate from a choice of political parties.

Dictatorship A form of government where one person or party has absolute power, often taken and kept using force. An individual with complete power is called a **dictator**. Most dictators ban all political parties other than their own.

Election A system of voting for individuals to act in government. In a **general election**, voters choose who will govern their country. In some countries, such as the USA, voters also elect a president. In others, such as the UK, the head of the party with most votes becomes the leader of the government.

European Union (EU) An organization of 27 countries in Europe. EU policies promote trade between countries in Europe and aim to improve security. The EU is run by the Commission, a body that is accountable to the Council of Ministers. In 2011, 17 countries in the EU used the euro (€) as currency.

Federation A country divided into states. Each state rules itself on local matters, such as education and highways. The USA, Russia and Brazil are all examples of federations.

Head of state The main representative of a country. In a monarchy, this is a king or queen; in a republic the president is both the political leader and the head of state.

Laws The rules of a country, made by its government. Laws control what people can and cannot do, in order to maintain order and stop people being harmed by others. People are punished if they break the law.



Legislature The part of a government responsible for making laws. In the UK, it is called **Parliament**. In the USA, it is known as **Congress**. In France and other countries, it is called the **National Assembly**.

Monarchy A government in which the head of state is a **monarch**, such as a king or queen, whose position is inherited. In an **absolute monarchy**, the monarch has total power. In a **constitutional monarchy**, the monarch's powers are limited in practice.



The Secretariat Building at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

Nation A large group of people with a common culture or language, living in a particular region or country.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) A military alliance formed between countries in North America and Europe. Established in 1949, it currently has 28 members.



From the left: flags of the UN, NATO, EU, AU and Arab League.

Policy A plan of action adopted by a government.

Political party A group of people with similar opinions working to achieve common political aims and seek power within a government.

President The elected head of state and government in a republic.

Prime Minister The head of the government in a parliamentary system. He or she is the leader of the political party that wins most votes in an election.

Republic A country that does not have a monarch. In a republic, the president is head of state. The USA, France, Ireland and India are all examples of republics.

State Another word for a country, or a small self-governed area that is part of a larger country, as in a federation.

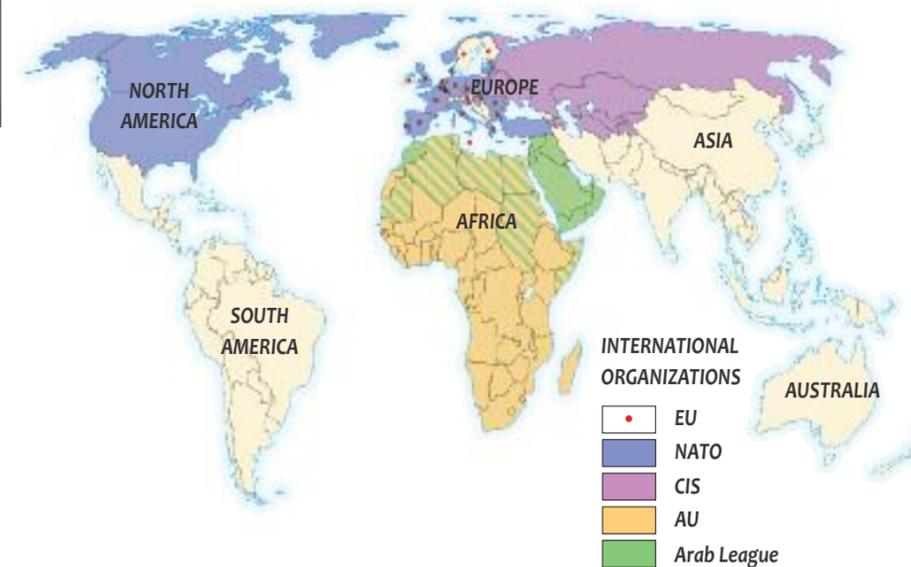
Taxes Money paid to the government by individuals and businesses, used to fund services such as health and education.

FACTFILE

★ The first democracy was in the Greek city of Athens in about 500 bc. All Athenian-born men who were not slaves could vote for their leaders. Once a week, citizens met at an assembly, where anyone could speak.

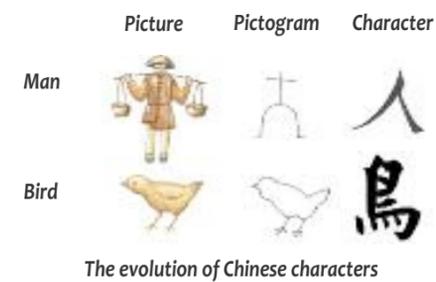
★ The United States government, known as Congress, is divided into two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. All congressmen are directly elected by the people. The head of the USA is the president, who is elected independently and is not necessarily a member of the majority party in Congress. The US president is also the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

United Nations (UN) A worldwide organization formed to promote security and peace. Set up in 1945, today the UN has 193 members. Every member has a seat on the General Assembly, which discusses issues such as world poverty and the environment. A body of selected countries form the UN Security Council takes decisions in times of crisis.



LANGUAGES & WRITING

A language is a system used to communicate. Most languages use words, formed by groups of sounds, though some, such as sign language, rely entirely on gestures. Spoken languages fall into different “families”, related because they evolved from a common, older language. By using letters or symbols to represent sounds or words languages can be written. Early writing was in the form of pictures, but today languages use an alphabet or characters.



Afroasiatic languages A family of languages spoken in North Africa and the Middle East. It includes the Semitic, Berber, Cushitic and Chadic language groups.

Alphabet A set of symbols or letters used in writing, which represent the different sounds in a word.



Sign language differs from country to country but actions for the names of countries, such as Denmark (above), are the same worldwide.

Altaic languages A family of languages spoken in Central and East Asia. It includes Turkic, Mongolian and Tungusic languages.

Arabic alphabet An alphabet consisting of 28 letters, written from right to left. After the Roman alphabet, it is the most widely used alphabet in the world today.

Austronesian languages A family of languages spoken from Madagascar to Hawaii. It includes Malay, Malagasy, Maori, Fijian and Australian aboriginal languages.

Bilingual A person or community that speaks two languages.

Braille A reading alphabet for the blind, formed of raised dots representing numbers, letters and punctuation.

Character A symbol representing a word or part of a word used, for example, in Chinese and Japanese written language. Characters evolved from picture writing.

A tribe from Papua New Guinea, where more than 800 different languages are spoken.



Creole A language developed from a pidgin. In the Caribbean, African slaves used a pidgin of their tribal language and the language of their European owners. Their children grew up with pidgin as their first language, at which point it became a creole.

Cyrillic alphabet An alphabet developed from the Greek alphabet, used in Russia and some Eastern European countries.

Dialect A variation of a language spoken in a specific region or by a social group.

Dravidian languages A family of languages spoken in southern India and parts of Southeast Asia. It includes Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu.

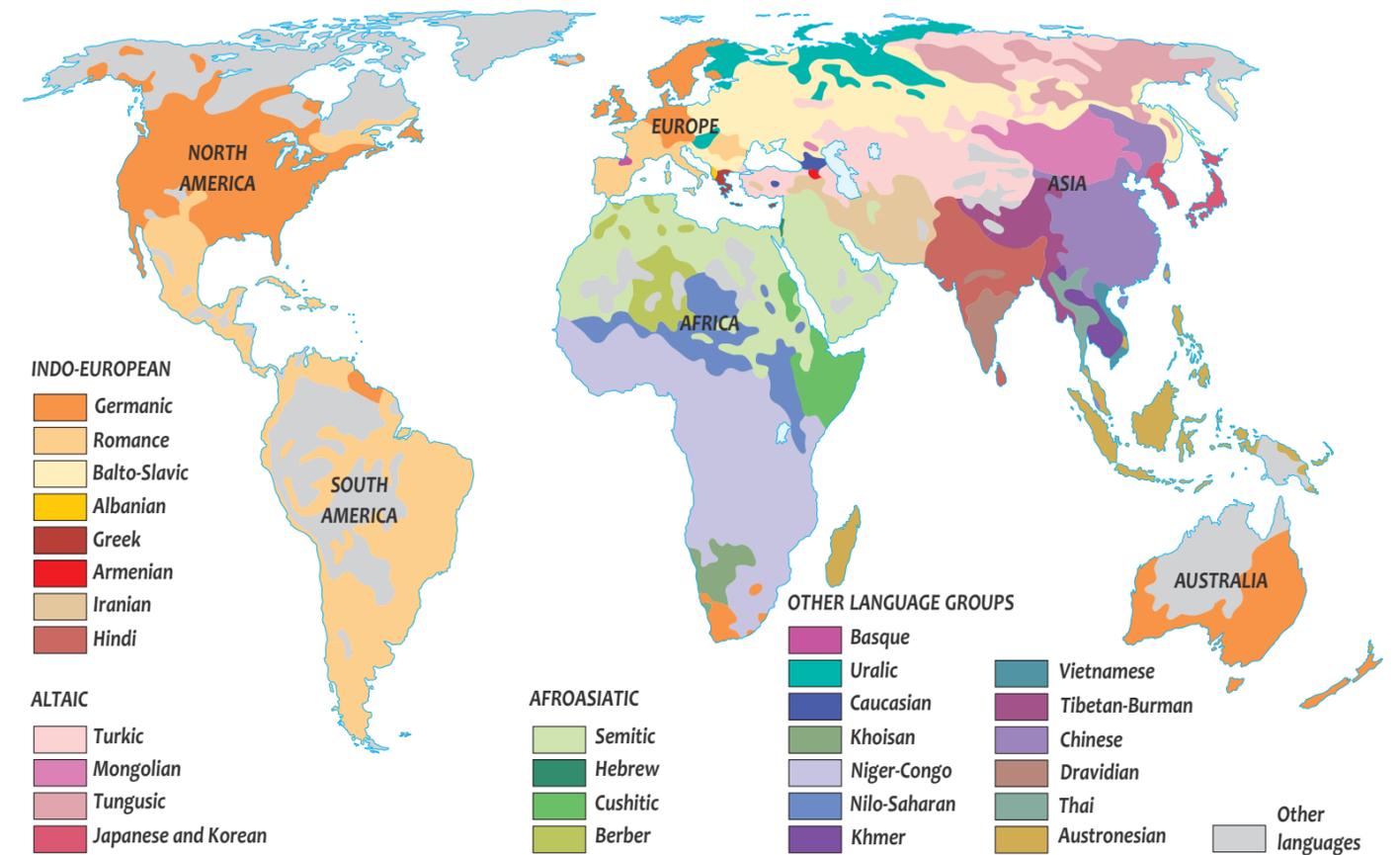


“Book” written in different languages and alphabets

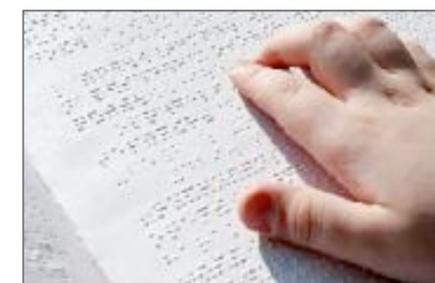
Greek alphabet An alphabet of 24 letters that has been used to write the Greek language since 800 BC.

Indo-European languages A family of languages spoken in Europe, Southwest Asia and India. It includes Germanic, Romance, Balto-Slavic and Iranian language groups. Indo-European languages are spoken by more people than any other language family.

Khoisan languages A group of African languages, also known as click languages, that use clicking noises, made with the lips and the tongue.



Niger-Congo languages A family of languages spoken in sub-Saharan Africa, including Kordofanian and Bantu languages. It is one of the largest families in terms of the number of speakers and languages.



Braille readers use their fingers to read books.

Picture writing An ancient form of writing, using symbols shaped like the objects they represent. It evolved into simplified forms, such as Egyptian hieroglyphics and Chinese characters.

Pidgin A simplified mixture of two languages, often used between groups with no shared language.

Roman alphabet An alphabet developed from the Greek alphabet by the Romans. Today, it is the mostly widely used alphabet in the world.

Sign language A visual language used by people who are deaf or dumb. It uses hand actions and facial expressions in order to communicate. There are over 100 different sign languages used in different countries around the world.

Sino-Tibetan languages A family of languages from East Asia, including the Chinese and Tibetan-Burman languages. It is the second most widely spoken language family in the world.

Tone language A language, such as Chinese, where variations in pitch, or tone, change the meaning of some words.

Uralic languages A family of languages spoken in parts of Eastern Europe. It includes the Hungarian and Samoyedic language groups.

FACTFILE

- ★ Over a third of the world’s population speak one of five languages: Chinese, English, Hindi, Spanish or Russian.
- ★ About one-fifth of the world’s population speak Chinese, making it the most widely spoken language in the world. There are several different variations of Chinese, of which Mandarin is the most widely spoken.
- ★ The people of Gomera in the Canary Islands use loud whistles to “speak” to one another across valleys.
- ★ In some countries there are so many languages that people from different regions may not understand one another. In order to avoid this, countries select one “standard language”, which is used in schools, businesses and government to avoid communication problems. In the African country of Ghana, there are 79 different tribal languages, so English is used as the standard language.

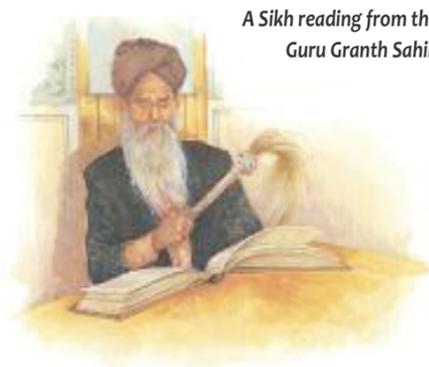
RELIGIONS

A religion is a collection of beliefs that help people attempt to understand the world. Most religious people believe in one god, or several gods. There are many different religions in the world. Some of the most widely practised are: Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism. Though different, they have some features in common. People follow rituals and celebrate holy days, they go to a place of worship to pray, and most religions have priests who conduct religious worship.

Bible The Christian or Jewish holy book. The Jewish Bible contains a history of Israel and the Jews. The Christian Bible contains the Old Testament (the Jewish Bible) and the New Testament, which describes the life of Jesus Christ and his followers.

Buddha A title meaning “enlightened one”, given to Siddhartha Gautama (563-483 BC), the founder of Buddhism. Through meditation, he reached the state of *nirvana*, and spent his life teaching others how to do so.

Buddhist monks praying. During prayers, they may play horns or drums. In the background, people spin prayer wheels.



A Sikh reading from the Guru Granth Sahib

Buddhism A religion based on the teachings of Buddha. Buddhists believe in four noble truths: life is full of suffering; suffering is caused by greed; suffering can end; there is a path to a state of peace, called *nirvana*.

Catholic Church A branch of Christianity in which the Pope has supreme authority. The Pope lives in Vatican City in Rome.

Christianity A religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, and the worship of one god. Christians believe God created Heaven and Earth and that he sent his son, Jesus Christ, to save people from sin by sacrificing his own life.

Church A place of worship for Christians, often built in the shape of a cross.

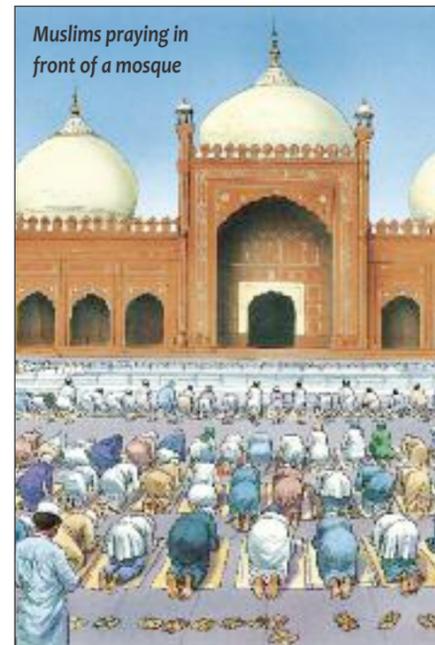
Five Ks Five items worn by Sikhs as symbols of their faith. These are: *kesh*, uncut hair held in a *kanga* (comb), *kara* (wrist band), *kachera* (underpants) and *kirpan* (sword).

Five pillars of Islam Five duties that Muslims must perform. These are: to declare faith to Allah (god) and the Prophet Mohammed; to pray five times a day; to give to charity; to fast during the month of Ramadan; to make a pilgrimage to Mecca.

Guru Nanak (1469-1539) An Indian spiritual teacher who was the founder of Sikhism. He was the first of ten gurus (leaders).

Guru Granth Sahib The Sikh holy book, containing nearly 6000 hymns written by 10 Sikh gurus (leaders).

Heaven In some religions, the destination for a person’s soul after death, if they have followed the codes of that religion.



Muslims praying in front of a mosque

Hinduism A religion based on a set of ideas called the *dharma*, the truth—that all living things have souls that are reborn many times. Hindus believe the actions (*karma*) of people in this life will decide their fate in the next. The Hindu religion has many gods who are all different appearances of the supreme spirit, Brahman.

Islam A religion based on the teachings of the Prophet Mohammed and belief in one god, Allah. The followers of Islam, called **Muslims**, follow the five pillars of Islam.

Jesus Christ A Jewish spiritual leader, born 2000 years ago, whom Christians believe to be the Son of God. Officials feared he would stir an uprising, so he was crucified (nailed to a cross to die). Christians believe he rose from the dead and into Heaven.

Judaism The religion of the Jewish people, who believe in one God who created Heaven and Earth and made the Jews his chosen people.

Mecca A city in Saudi Arabia where the Prophet Mohammed was born. All Muslims pray facing the direction of Mecca and vow to make a pilgrimage there, the *Hajj*.

Meditation The act of concentrated thought on spiritual matters. Meditation is an important part of all religions.

Mohammed (570-632) The founder of the Islamic religion. He was meditating when an angel told him there is only one god, Allah, and that he should become the prophet of Allah. Muslims believe Mohammed is the last in a line of prophets sent by Allah.



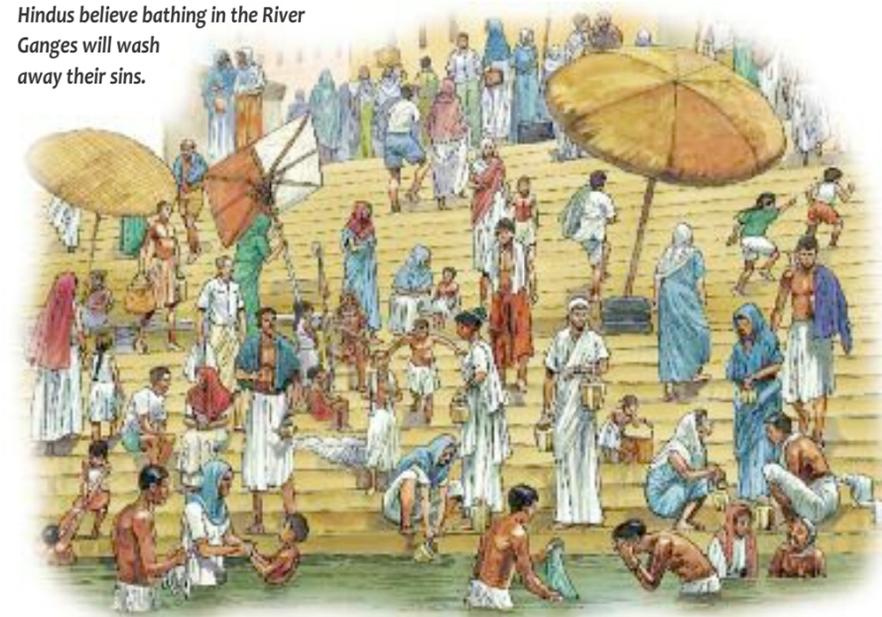
A Jew from the Hasidic group praying at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. It is the only part of the ancient Jewish Temple still standing today. Many Jews go there to pray.

Mosque A Muslim place of worship, with a domed roof and towers called minarets, from which Muslims are called to prayer.

Nirvana A state of peace that Buddhists strive to achieve through meditation and good actions.

Orthodox Church A branch of Christianity in which followers believe that their bishops are supreme. Orthodox Christians live mainly in Eastern Europe and Greece.

Hindus believe bathing in the River Ganges will wash away their sins.



Pilgrimage A journey to a sacred place, inspired by religious devotion.

Prophet A person who speaks to followers of a religion as the messenger of God.

Protestant Church A branch of Christianity in which the Bible is the only authority.

Qur’an The holy book of the Islamic faith. Muslims believe it is a record of the words spoken by Allah to the Prophet Mohammed through the angel Gabriel.

Sikhism An Indian religion that follows the teachings of Guru Nanak. Sikhs believe in one god who created the Universe.

Synagogue A Jewish place of worship.



A Catholic Church at the festival of Christmas

FACTFILE

★ Christianity is the most widely practised religion with about 2.2 million followers worldwide.

★ Religions that believe in just one god are called monotheistic. Those that believe in many gods are polytheistic.

★ In many religions, men and women called monks and nuns live apart from society to devote their lives to prayer and meditation. They may live alone or in groups. Many also help the poor, educate children or nurse the sick.

★ The tallest statue in the world is a statue of Buddha in China, called the Spring Temple Buddha. It is 128 m tall. The hill on which the statue stands is being reshaped into two pedestals beneath the Buddha.

Torah The Jewish holy text, containing the first books of the Jewish Bible, a history of the Jews and the laws that they follow. It is kept as a scroll, and is so sacred that no one is allowed to touch it.

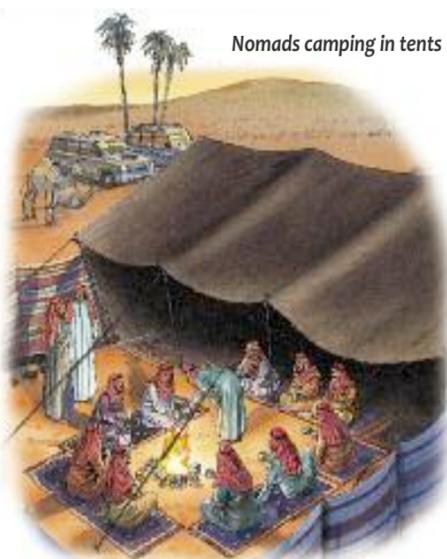
Tripitaka The Buddhist holy texts, containing a set of rules for monks and nuns, the experiences of Buddha and an explanation of Buddha’s teaching.

TRADITIONAL HOMES

Most people today live in houses or apartment blocks made from bricks or concrete. However, a few still live in traditional homes, which suit their lifestyle or local environment, and which can be cheaply made from local materials. Some of these have remained unchanged for centuries, but others have been adapted for modern-day living. For example, the yurt, a tent used by Mongolian nomads, is now the permanent home of choice for people living in the suburbs of Ulan Bator, Mongolia's capital.

Apartment block A tall building in a city built to accommodate many people despite lack of ground space. Most apartment blocks are purpose built, but some large houses are converted into apartments to accommodate more people.

Bungalow A small one-storey house, sometimes with upstairs rooms in the roof. In South Asia, a bungalow is any house inhabited by just one family, in contrast to an apartment block.



Nomads camping in tents



A traditional tongkonan (above) in Indonesia. A Swiss house (below), shaped to shed heavy snow from its roof.



Houseboat A boat designed or adapted for use as a home. Some houseboats are permanently moored.

Igloo A traditional Inuit shelter, usually made from snow when out hunting. Blocks of snow are cut and laid on top of each other to form a dome. A lamp is then used to melt snow on the inside walls, which quickly freeze to form a wind tight wall.

Log cabin A small house made from unshaped wooden logs. Log cabins are traditional buildings in densely wooded parts of Europe and in North America.

Maasai house The traditional shelter of the Maasai people in East Africa, made from poles interwoven with branches and packed with mud, grass and dung to keep the building dry. There are no windows, just an opening to let light in and smoke out.

Machiya A traditional wooden Japanese townhouse. Machiya are long and narrow, usually with a small courtyard garden and tile roof. They can be between one and three stories high.

Mudbrick house A house made from traditional bricks, shaped from mud and left to bake in the hot sun. Mudbrick homes are built in hot, dry areas such as North Africa.



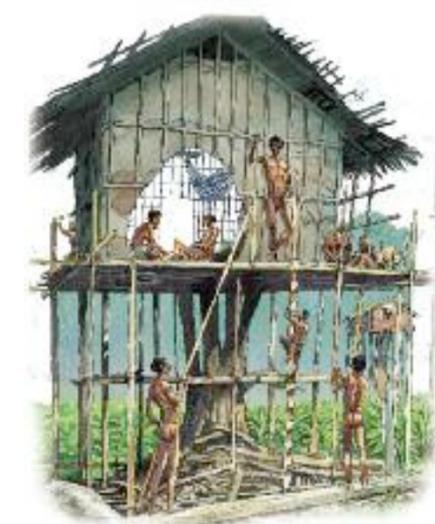
Mudbrick houses

Mudhif A traditional reed house built in the marshes of southern Iraq. It is usually a large, communal house with an arched roof. If marsh waters rise too high, the mudhif can be quickly dismantled and carried to an area of higher ground.

Nomads People who do not live in one place all the time but move about, usually to find new grazing land for their animals, or new hunting ground for themselves. Nomads usually live in tents, which can be easily carried around with them.

Round house A house built with a circular base. Many early houses and huts were shaped like tents. Round houses are still popular in many parts of Africa and southern Europe.

Stilt house A house raised on stilts above water or soil. Stilt houses are usually built in areas that regularly flood. They also help to keep out vermin. In and around Indonesia, offshore stilt houses, called *kelongs*, are inhabited by fishing communities.



A tree house in Papua New Guinea

Suburb The outer regions of a city, consisting of residential areas and spacious shopping malls. Often people live in the suburbs and commute into the city centre to work.

Tepee A traditional Native American cone-shaped tent, made out of buffalo hides attached to poles.

Terraced house A house that shares its side walls with other houses. Townhouses are terraced houses that are typically two or more storeys tall.



Stilt houses called *kelongs* in Indonesia (above). A round house in West Africa (below), made from baked mud with a thatched roof.



Thatch A roof made from straw, leaves or reeds, layered in order to shed water.

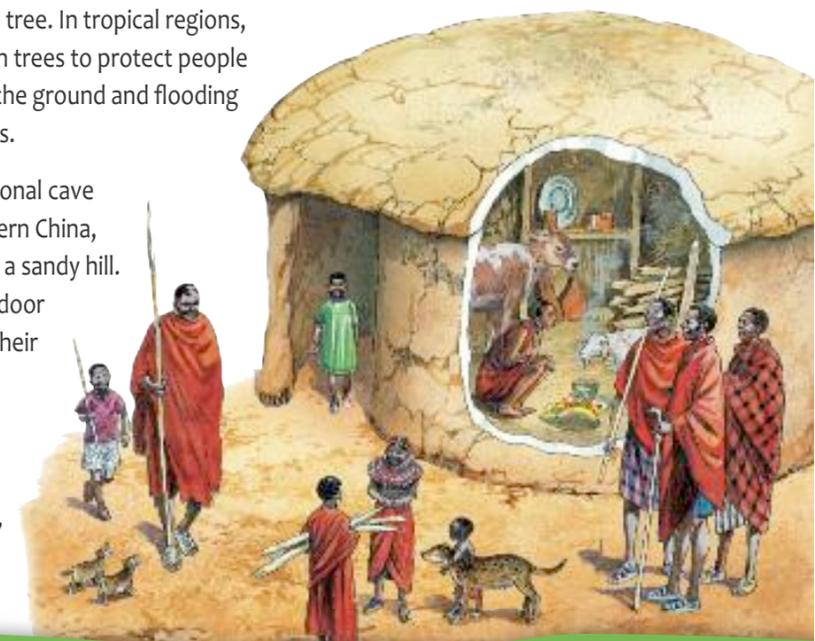
Timber-frame house A house built around a wooden frame with walls made from wood, brick or twigs packed with mud.

Tongkonan A traditional house built by the Torajan people of Indonesia. It is made from wood with a large, boat-shaped roof protruding over the front of the house.

Tree house A building constructed among the branches of a tree. In tropical regions, houses are built in trees to protect people from animals on the ground and flooding during heavy rains.

Yaodong A traditional cave dwelling in northern China, dug in the side of a sandy hill. Yaodongs have a door and windows at their front and are plastered inside.

In a traditional home, Maasai live alongside their cattle.



FACTFILE

★ The tree houses of the Kombai tribe in Papua New Guinea can reach heights of up to 50 m. It is thought that the tribe first took to the trees to escape flooding in heavy rains and to hide from nearby headhunting tribes.

★ Kampong Ayer in Brunei, Southeast Asia, is the world's largest area of stilt houses. It is actually a cluster of 42 villages linked by around 29,000 m of foot-bridges. Kampong Ayer is home to more than 30,000 people. It is sometimes called the "Venice of the East". As in the Italian city of Venice, people travel by water taxi.

Yurt A circular tent made of a wooden frame covered in pads of felt and a canvas cover to protect it against rain. Many Mongolians live in yurts.

SPORTS

A sport is a physical activity in which an individual or team takes part for fun or as part of a competition. In some sports, the person who runs fastest or throws furthest is the winner. In others, such as tennis or football, players win by scoring points or goals. In a few sports, such as gymnastics, the winner is chosen by judges, according to the skill shown. Professional sportspeople compete for their livelihoods on a regular basis. Other people play sports for fun or exercise.

Athletics Track or field events that involve running, jumping or throwing.

Baseball A bat and ball game played between two teams on a diamond-shaped pitch. Baseball is popular in the USA, Canada, South America and East Asia.

Basketball A ball game for two teams. Players try to shoot a ball through a hoop, fixed high at each end of the court.



Slalom skiing (above) and the Tour de France (below), the world's greatest cycle race.



Two players compete for the ball in football.

Bowling Various sports in which players roll a ball to knock over a series of skittles, or to come as close as possible to a smaller ball.

Boxing A sport in which two competitors fight with their fists, wearing gloves.

Canoeing The sport of paddling a narrow one-person boat.

Combat sport A sport in which contestants fight one another. Boxing, wrestling and martial arts are all combat sports.

Cricket A bat and ball game for two teams. It is a favourite summer game in England, South Asia, southern Africa, Australasia and the West Indies.

Cycling A sport in which cyclists race on roads, on a track or cross country.

Diving A sport in which competitors dive from a high board into a pool, performing somersaults and twists as they fall.

Equestrian sport Any sport involving horse riding. Equestrian sports include racing, show jumping, dressage and polo.

Field event A sport such as throwing the javelin, discus or shot put, pole vaulting or the long and high jump. In competitions, field events take place in the centre of the running track inside a stadium.

Football A ball game, also known as association football or "soccer", in which two teams aim to kick a ball into the opposite team's goal.

Golf A game in which competitors use a set of clubs to hit a small ball into a series of holes in as few strokes as possible.

Gymnastics A sport in which competitors perform routines based on strength, skill and balance either on the floor or on special apparatus.

White-water canoeing through rough waters



Hockey A game in which two teams use a stick to knock a ball into their opponent's goal. In ice hockey, teams play on an ice rink wearing ice skates, and use a puck, a thick disc, instead of a ball.

Martial arts A group of sports that originated in Asia as means of self-defence or attack. Armed martial arts include kendo (fencing) and kyudo (archery). Unarmed arts, such as karate, taekwondo and kick boxing, use the hands and feet as weapons.



Runners passing on the baton in a relay race.

Olympic Games An international multi-sport event, named after Olympia in Greece, where the games were held in ancient times. Athletes compete to win gold, silver or bronze medals by gaining first, second or third place.

Sumo wrestling



Pelota A fast ball game that originated in Spain and is also popular in Latin America.

Racket sport Any sport in which players use a racket—a frame with cords stretched across it—to hit a ball. Racket sports include tennis, badminton and squash.

Rowing A sport in which an individual or team competes to row a light boat as fast as possible.

Rugby A ball game using an oval ball, started in England in the 1840s.

Sailing The sport of guiding a light, wind-powered boat, such as a yacht, for leisure or in competitive races.

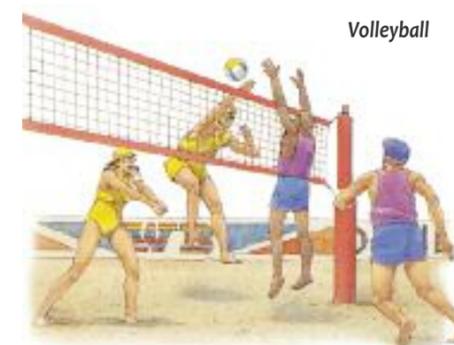
Skiing A winter sport in which a person uses long, straight skis to slide quickly over the snow. In slalom skiing, skiers weave between poles on a slope in the quickest time possible.

Surfing A sport in which a person stands or lies on a long board carried by a wave. Competitive surfers perform difficult moves as they "ride" the wave.

Sumo wrestling A sport in which two wrestlers attempt to force one another out of a circular ring.

Swimming The sport of moving through the water using the arms and legs. Different styles, called strokes, include front crawl, breaststroke, butterfly and backstroke.

Tennis A racket sport in which two or four players use a racket to hit a ball over a net. The modern game of tennis started in England in the 1870s.



Volleyball

Track event A sport such as racing that takes place on a running track. Some events involve jumping over hurdles. In relays, members of a team each run a section of the race before passing a baton on to the next runner in their team.

Volleyball A ball game for two teams in which a ball is hit over a high net using the hands. The aim is to keep the ball from striking the ground.

Water sport Any sport played in or on water, such as swimming, diving, surfing, windsurfing, canoeing and sailing.

Horse racing



Winter sport A sport such as ice skating or skiing that depends on ice or snow.

Wrestling A combat sport in which opponents try to throw or hold each other on the ground.

FACTFILE

★ Many of the sports we know today have their origins in ancient history. Some began as religious rituals. Others were tests of strength or endurance. Sporting competitions encouraged men to practise horsemanship, wrestling and other exercises that prepared them for battle.

★ Football is the most widely played sport in the world. Around 300 million people play association football around the world. It is also the most widely watched sport—about 1 billion people watched the 2010 FIFA World Cup final.

★ Particularly dangerous activities, such as ice climbing, sky diving and jet skiing are also known as "extreme" sports.

ARTS

A work of art is an object or performance created using skill and imagination and appreciated for its beauty or the strong feelings it evokes. Art forms include the visual arts, such as painting and sculpture, performing arts, such as theatre, dance and music, and literature such as novels and poetry. The arts are strongly shaped by the time and location in which they are created and by the personality and experiences of their creator.

Abstract art A style of visual art that uses lines, colours and textures for their own sake rather than to depict objects.

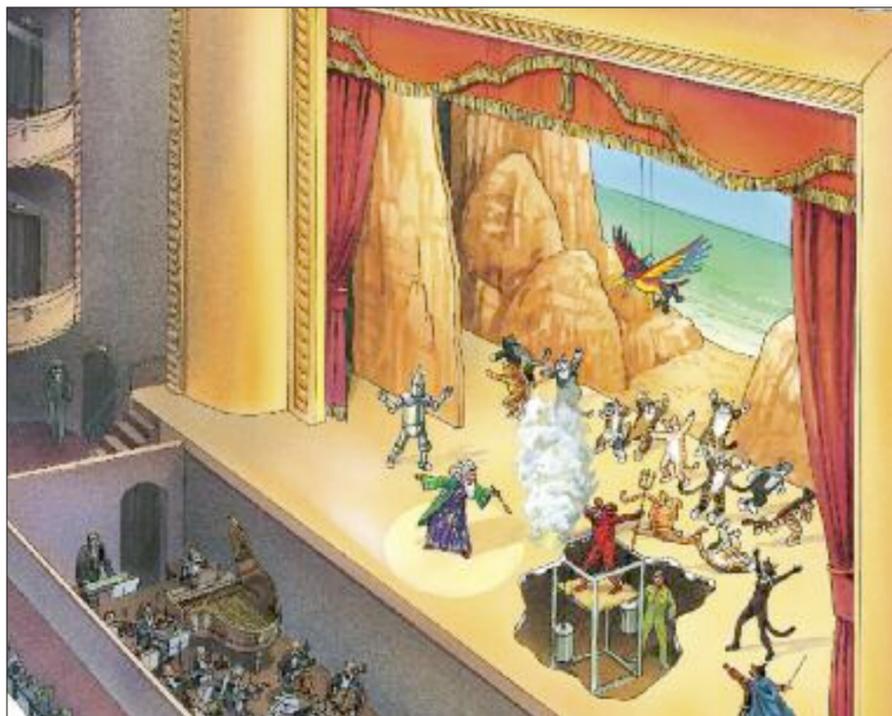
Architecture The art of designing buildings to look pleasing and act as practical structures in which to live and work.



Cubist painting of a guitar by Spanish artist Juan Gris (1887-1927)

Art Deco A style of art and architecture based on elegant, symmetrical shapes. It was popular in the 1920s and 30s.

Ballet A graceful dance form performed to music and often used to tell a story. Ballet is based on a set of poses and movements developed in 17th century Europe.



Actors in a drama, accompanied by an orchestra

Blues A musical style that evolved from work songs sung by African-American slaves in the early 1900s.

Choreographer A person who makes up the sequence of movements in a dance and teaches them to the dancers in a show.

Classical music Music with a traditional, formal structure that is notated (written down using symbols) in order to be performed. Classical music includes symphonies, operas and ballet music.

Composer A person who writes music.

Conductor A person who directs the performance of a choir or orchestra. He or she sets the speed, gives musicians their cues to come in and encourages them to play more softly or loudly.

Cubism A style of painting in which objects are portrayed as a collection of cubes, spheres and other geometric shapes.

Drama A story performed by actors in front of an audience. Different cultures have different styles of drama, which may involve dance, mime, masks or song.

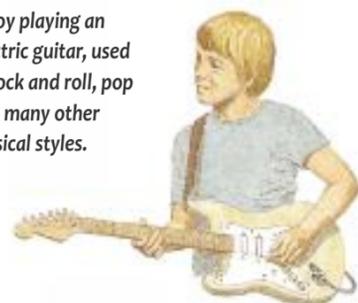
Puppet shows are popular in much of Indonesia. Wayang Kulit puppets are made out of cardboard and moved by wires. They can be backlit to make shadow puppet shows.



Impressionism A style of painting that uses dabs of paint to create an impression of light, shade and colour rather than a detailed depiction.

Jazz A style of music started by African Americans in the early 1900s. Most jazz is partly improvised (made up on the spot). Jazz bands may include a piano, drums and double bass among other instruments.

A boy playing an electric guitar, used in rock and roll, pop and many other musical styles.



Actors, technicians and a director shooting a movie

Mime A type of drama that uses movement and facial expressions to suggest action or feelings without using words.

Modernism A style in the arts that aims to break away from tradition. Modernists avoid realistic depictions of life in favour of more abstract forms.

Movie A story told through moving images, usually accompanied by sound.

Novel A long piece of writing in ordinary language rather than poetry. Novels are works of fiction, telling events imagined by the author.



A male dancer supports a ballerina as she strikes an elegant pose.

Opera A drama set to music, performed by singers and an ensemble of musicians.

Orchestra A large group of musicians playing together. There are many types of orchestra around the world but a classical Western orchestra includes stringed instruments, woodwind instruments, brass instruments and percussion.

Photography The art of capturing an image using a camera. Many photographers use light and composition to create striking images, just as artistic as a painting.

Poetry Writing that uses rhyme, rhythm and the sounds of words to express emotion. Poems may be long narratives or short descriptions of events or feelings.

Pop art A style of art that uses images taken from popular culture, such as labels, comic strips or images of celebrities.

A jazz club in New Orleans, USA



Pop music Popular commercial music, usually in the form of short, catchy songs. It is mostly influenced by rock and roll.

Puppetry Drama using puppets, moved by strings, rods or a glove, to enact a story. Puppet theatres are one of the main types of drama in Japan, India and Java.

A sculptor shaping a woman's face out of clay



FACTFILE

★ The earliest works of art known to us are small carvings made from bone or stone. They usually depict human figures or animals. These little figures date back at least 35,000 years.

★ The plays of English writer William Shakespeare (1564-1616) are still among the most famous and popular in the world. They have been translated into every major language.

★ 4'33", or "Four minutes, 33 seconds" is an experimental piece of music that does not contain a single note. Instead, the composer, John Cage (1912-1992), instructs the performer to maintain silence throughout the piece. This is supposed to make the audience listen to the everyday noises all around them.

Rock and roll A style of music that developed in America in the 1950s, with a powerful beat and simple melodies. Rock and roll bands have a singer, electric guitar, bass and drum kit.

Sculpture The art of making figures or abstract forms by shaping stone, metal, wood, plaster, clay or other materials.

Symphony A large-scale piece of music for an orchestra, usually made up of several contrasting sections, called movements.

STRUCTURES

A structure is a building, tower, bridge or other large construction. Buildings are erected for use as homes or offices. Bridges are built so that people can cross ravines or water. Dams are built to hold back water and stadiums are made to hold sporting events. Monuments are made to honour famous people or events. Some structures, such as the Eiffel Tower, are built to illustrate new technology or beat records. In the past century, many buildings and towers have sought to be the world's tallest structure.



Ericsson Globe in Stockholm, Sweden

Arch bridge A bridge with an arched structure beneath its deck. It is one of the oldest types of bridge. The arch shape gives great strength to the structure.

Bank of China Tower A 307-metre-tall skyscraper in Hong Kong, housing the head of the Bank of China. It was the tallest building in Asia from 1989 to 1992.

- 1 Burj Khalifa, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- 2 CN tower, Toronto, Canada
- 3 Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 4 Empire State Building, New York, USA
- 5 Bank of China Tower, Hong Kong, China

Bascule A bridge with a section that can be raised or lowered like a drawbridge, enabling tall ships to pass beneath it.

Beam bridge A simple bridge formed of horizontal beams supported at each end by vertical posts.

Burj Khalifa A 828-metre-tall skyscraper in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The building, opened in 2010, is currently the tallest structure ever built.

Cable-stayed bridge A bridge held up by steel cables. The cables hang from masts at either end of the bridge. The weight of the deck is supported by the masts.

Cantilever bridge A bridge built in two halves. Each beam is fixed to the bank at one end. The other end is balanced on a central support.

Chrysler Building A 319-metre-tall Art Deco style (18) skyscraper in New York City. Completed in 1930, it was the tallest building in the world for 11 months, before the Empire State Building was completed.



Gateway Arch

CN Tower A 553-metre-tall structure in Toronto, Canada. It is a TV transmission station and a tourist attraction, with two observation decks. Completed in 1976, it was the world's tallest structure until the completion of Burj Khalifa in 2010.

Dam A barrier built across a river to hold water back for drinking or watering crops, to generate electricity by hydroelectric power, or to control flooding.

Eiffel Tower A 300-metre-tall iron structure, built in Paris in 1889. At the time of its construction, it was the world's tallest structure.

Empire State Building A 381-metre-tall skyscraper in New York. Completed in 1931, it was the world's tallest building until 1973. Its spire was intended to be a mooring post for airships, but was only used for this once.

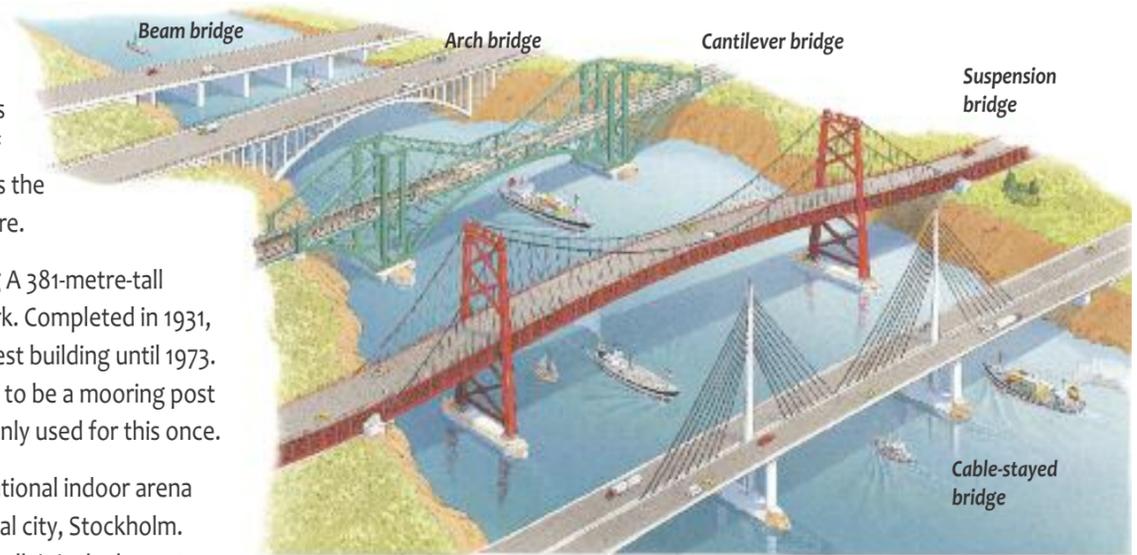
Ericsson Globe The national indoor arena of Sweden, in its capital city, Stockholm. 100 m wide and 85 m tall, it is the largest hemispherical building in the world.



A bascule bridge in Amsterdam

Gateway Arch The tallest monument in the world, rising 192 m above the Mississippi River in America. It was built in 1965 to mark St. Louis's historic role as "Gateway to the West". The steel arch is hollow, with lifts going up inside it.

Sydney Opera House in Sydney Harbour, Australia



Different types of bridges (above)

Petronas Towers Twin skyscrapers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The 452-metre-tall buildings were the tallest in the world from 1998 to 2004. Each tower has 88 floors and a sky bridge connects the 41st and 42nd floors.

Skyscraper A very tall building, usually more than 20 storeys high. Skyscrapers provide lots of space while using little land. They are a feature of many large cities, where land is limited and expensive.

Suspension bridge A bridge hung from steel cables strung between towers. Suspension bridges are ideal for long, high spans as they do not require a row of supporting columns that may interfere with river transport.

Sydney Opera House One of the most famous modern buildings in the world, on the edge of Sydney Harbour in Australia. Built during the 1960s, the building's roof is designed to imitate the sails of the ships in the harbour.

FACTFILE

★ The world's longest bridge over water is the Qingdao Haiwan Bridge in China, which is 42.5 km long. The T-shaped bridge connects Huangdao District, the city of Wingdao and Hongdao Island.

★ The longest bridge over land is the Danyang-Kunshan Grand Bridge in China, which is 164 km long. It connects Shanghai and Nanjing and is part of the Beijing-Shanghai High-Speed Railway.

★ Modern skyscrapers are designed to sway so that they do not snap in strong winds or during earthquakes. The Burj Khalifa sways about two metres back and forth at the top.

★ The fastest lift in the world is in the 213-metre-tall G1 tower in Japan. It travels at 1080 metres per minute.



The Eiffel Tower

FARMING & FISHING

Farming is the growing of crops or the keeping of animals for food and raw materials. Farms range in size from small-scale community patches, to large international businesses. Modern machines enable farmers to carry out jobs, such as sowing crops or milking cattle, more quickly and efficiently. Fishing is a source of food and an important industry for many people living near the sea. Different boats and nets are used to catch different types of fish and other marine creatures.

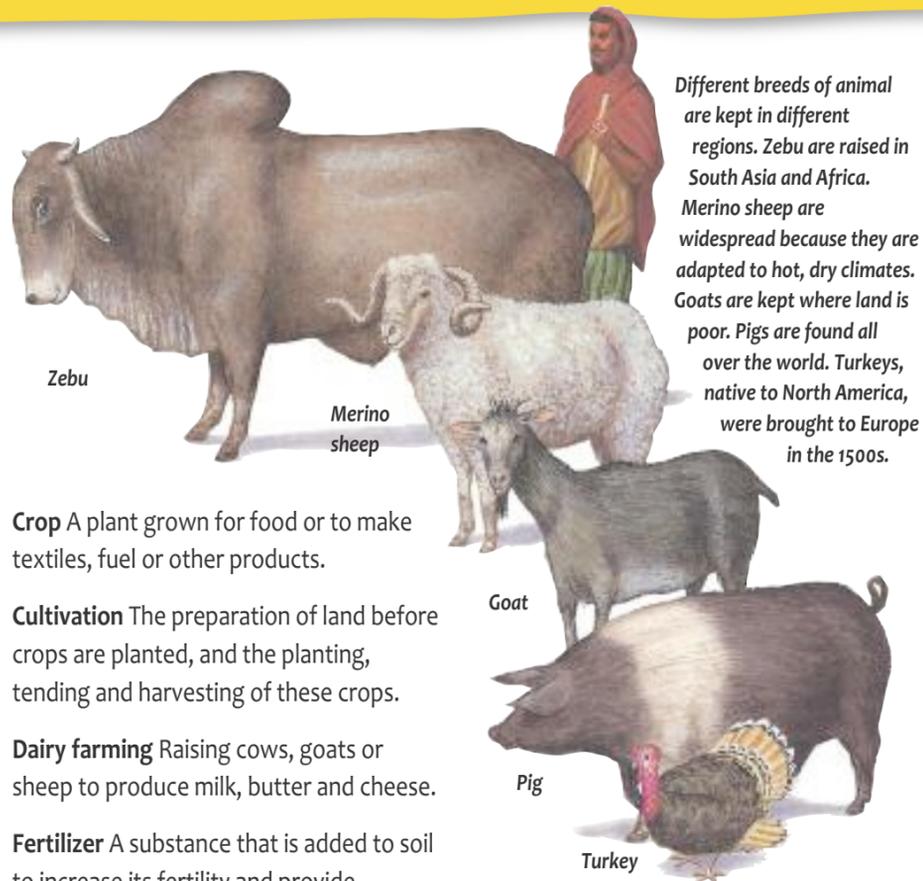
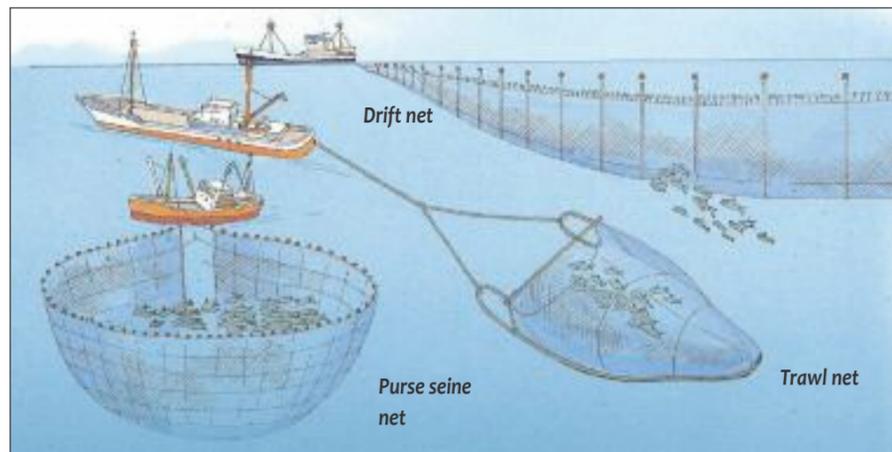
Agriculture The practice of cultivating a field in which to grow crops or rear animals for food or raw materials.

Arable farming The cultivation of crops.

Cash crop A crop grown to be sold rather than used by the farmer.

Cereal A grain such as wheat, rice, maize, barley, rye or millet. Cereals provide many people with their basic source of food.

Different types of fishing net: a trawl net, dragged behind a boat; a purse seine net, spread out to catch fish in surface waters; and a drift net that hangs down in the water.



Different breeds of animal are kept in different regions. Zebu are raised in South Asia and Africa. Merino sheep are widespread because they are adapted to hot, dry climates. Goats are kept where land is poor. Pigs are found all over the world. Turkeys, native to North America, were brought to Europe in the 1500s.

Crop A plant grown for food or to make textiles, fuel or other products.

Cultivation The preparation of land before crops are planted, and the planting, tending and harvesting of these crops.

Dairy farming Raising cows, goats or sheep to produce milk, butter and cheese.

Fertilizer A substance that is added to soil to increase its fertility and provide nutrients essential to plant growth. Some fertilizers are produced chemically, but others, such as manure, occur naturally.

Fibre crops Plants such as cotton, flax and hemp that are turned into fabrics.

Fish farm A place where fish are hatched and raised to supply aquariums, restock fishing lakes or sell as food.

Fishing The practice of catching fish for food or sport. Most fish are caught by fishermen working on boats with large nets, called trawlers.

Fodder Food grown to feed livestock.

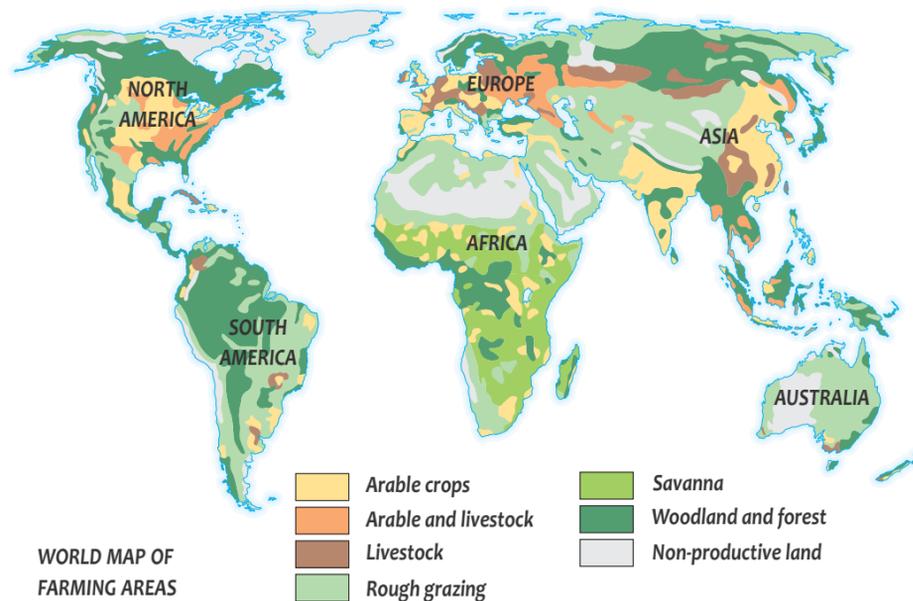
Free range A type of farming where animals such as pigs and chickens are allowed to move around freely instead of being confined in pens.



Tractor harvesting cotton in the USA

Genetically Modified (GM) crops Crops that have been artificially changed in a laboratory, for example to taste better or to resist pests. Some people are worried about the long-term effects of GM crops.

Harvest The process of gathering crops. Most farms use a **combine harvester**—a huge machine that gathers and cuts stalks, then separates the grain from the stalks.



WORLD MAP OF FARMING AREAS

Winnowing rice (below): the edible grain falls to the ground while the husks remain in the sieve.



Horticulture The practice of cultivating a garden on a small scale to grow fruit, vegetables, flowers and other plants.

Intensive farming Methods used to increase food production, such as using fertilizer or pesticides on crops. Animals are kept indoors and fed a mixture which makes them gain weight in as little time as possible or produce more eggs or milk.

Modern cereal farmers use a range of machines for carrying out tasks at different times of the year. The farmer uses a plough to turn over the soil (1). A harrow is pulled over the land to smooth it (2).

Irrigation The diversion of water from rivers or lakes to dry arable land. This may be achieved by digging channels to redirect water, or piping water to fields where it is distributed by sprinklers.

Organic farming Farming that does not use artificial pesticides or fertilizers.

Pastoral farming Raising animals such as pigs, cows or sheep for meat, dairy products, wool or skins.

Pesticides Chemicals designed to kill or harm pests that damage crops.

Rice A cereal that is the main food for millions of people. It is grown in flooded fields called paddies. Seedlings are planted in rows under water. After harvesting, the rice is threshed, to separate out the grain, then winnowed, to lose the husks and grit.

A seed drill puts the seeds into the soil in tidy rows and covers them over with soil (3). A crop-sprayer applies pesticides (4).



Shifting cultivation A system of arable farming where farmers grow crops for as long as the land is fertile, then move on when the soil becomes exhausted. The most common method is slash-and-burn, in which land is cleared by burning patches of forest.

Subsistence farming Farming that produces only enough food for a farmer's family or local community.

Tractor A powerful vehicle that can pull a plough or other machinery. Its huge rear tyres make it easier for to move across muddy fields.

FACTFILE

- ★ Around half of the world's workforce is employed in farming.
- ★ The average American farmer in 1850 produced enough food to feed only four people. Since then, developments in farm machinery have enabled farmers to produce more crops using less labour. Today, that figure has risen to around 130 people.
- ★ Overfishing in the Atlantic means that some species, such as cod, are almost extinct. It is estimated that 20 million tonnes of fish a year are discarded because of regulations regarding the size, species and number of fish caught. This needlessly reduces stocks of fish.
- ★ Australia produces over one-quarter of the world's wool. There are many more sheep than people in Australia.

A combine harvests the crop and separates the grain from the stalks (5).

INDUSTRY

The word “industry” describes an activity that produces the goods or services that people need or want. There are many different kinds of industry, including mining, farming, fishing, manufacturing and the provision of services for people to use. Industries fall into three main groups: primary, the extraction of raw materials; secondary, the manufacture of goods; and tertiary, the provision of services.

Assembly line A process in which a series of workers or machines carries out consecutive stages in creating a finished product. Assembly lines improve the speed and efficiency of production as each machine part or worker is specialized or trained for the task they perform.

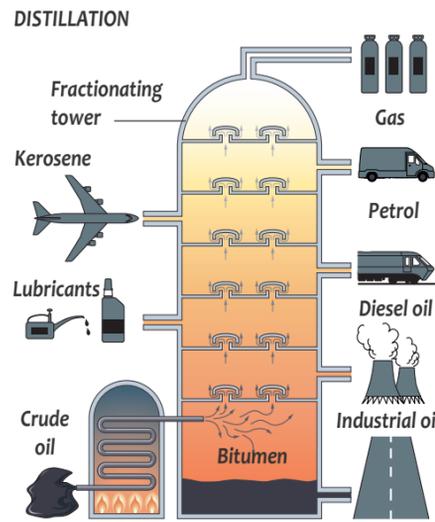
Automated industry An industry that uses special equipment such as robots to increase productivity. The electronics and cars industries are heavily automated.



An open-pit copper mine. Huge excavators cut away the surface rock and dig up the ore.

Coal A fuel formed over hundreds of millions of years as plants rot down into peat which is compressed into layers of rock. Coal is mined and burnt in power stations to help produce electricity or in furnaces to help produce iron and steel.

Construction industry The building of homes, factories, bridges, roads and other large structures. It is a secondary industry.



Cottage industry A small manufacturing business conducted from a home or small workshop. Cottage industries include potteries, glass-blowers and lace-makers.

Distillation The process of purifying a liquid by heating and cooling it. **Crude oil** from a well is sent to a **refinery** where it is separated into different substances by distillation. The oil is boiled in a **fractionating tower**. Vapours float upwards, cool and condense at different temperatures. Trays at different heights collect the liquids as they condense.

Exports Products or services that are sold to other countries.

Industrial robots making cars on an assembly line



Fossil fuels Fuels including coal, oil and gas, formed from the remains of living things that died millions of years ago.

Fuel A source of heat or energy, including substances that burn, such as coal or petrol, as well as substances that can be made to produce a nuclear reaction to release energy.

Imports Products or services that are purchased from another country.

Offshore oil rig



Infrastructure The basic structures and networks needed for industries to operate in a country. Transport links are vital for moving products and raw materials; buildings are needed to house factories; electricity is needed to power machinery and provide light and heat for buildings; telecommunications links are vital for conducting business.



Rotterdam port handles many goods entering and leaving Western Europe.

Manufacture The production of goods made from raw materials. Manufacturing industries produce goods such as clothing, cars, electronics and buildings.

Market A place where goods are bought and sold.

Mass production The production of large quantities of a product in a short time, using an assembly line and automated machinery. This reduces the cost of labour and enables parts to be bought in bulk for lower prices. The product can then be sold at affordable prices to a mass market.



Construction worker cutting metal

Mining The process of digging out raw materials, such as precious stones, metals and fossil fuels, from under the ground. Those found near the surface are mined by the open-pit method, which cuts away the surface rock. Those found deep underground are dug out by drilling shafts, from which a network of tunnels lead to the rock face. Oil and gas are mined using wells drilled into the ground or the sea bed.

Natural gas A flammable mixture of gases that formed at the same time as oil, millions of years ago. To extract natural gas, workers drill a well down to it and the gas rises up or is pumped to the surface through a well.



Glass-blowing, a cottage industry

Oil A substance used as a fuel in power stations and transport, and an essential raw material for plastics. Oil formed over millions of years from dead sea plants and animals that were buried under sediments and gradually compressed into layers of rock. The heat action of bacteria changed the remains into oil and natural gases.

Oil well A shaft drilled into the ground through which oil is collected. The pressure of the oil may be enough to send it gushing to the surface. If not, it is pumped. Oil under the sea bed is mined using drills mounted on offshore **oil rigs**.

Ore A rock that contains a metal.

Primary industry An industry that extracts or grows raw materials. Mining, farming, and fishing are all primary industries.

Quarry A deep pit from which rocks or other raw materials are removed.

Raw material The basic substance from which a product is made. Raw materials, such as wood, oil or grain, are all products of primary industries; logging, mining and farming, respectively.

FACTFILE

★ In the late 18th and 19th centuries, the development of new machinery radically changed the way that manufacturing was carried out. This period of change is known as the Industrial Revolution. The new machines were too big for homes or workshops so manufacturing moved to larger buildings called factories.

★ China is the top manufacturing country by output, a title held by the USA for over 100 years until 2010.

★ Coal produces around 23% of the world's energy and 39% of the world's electricity.

Secondary industry An industry that turns raw materials into products, such as cars, buildings or processed food.

Smelting The process of extracting a metal from the rock, or ore, in which it is found. This is achieved by heating the rock to a high temperature so that the metal melts and runs out.

Tertiary industry An industry that provides a service, such as banking, shops, education, leisure, tourism or transport. Tertiary industries, also known as **service industries**, do not extract or manufacture products but offer a service.

Trade The purchase and sale of products or services.

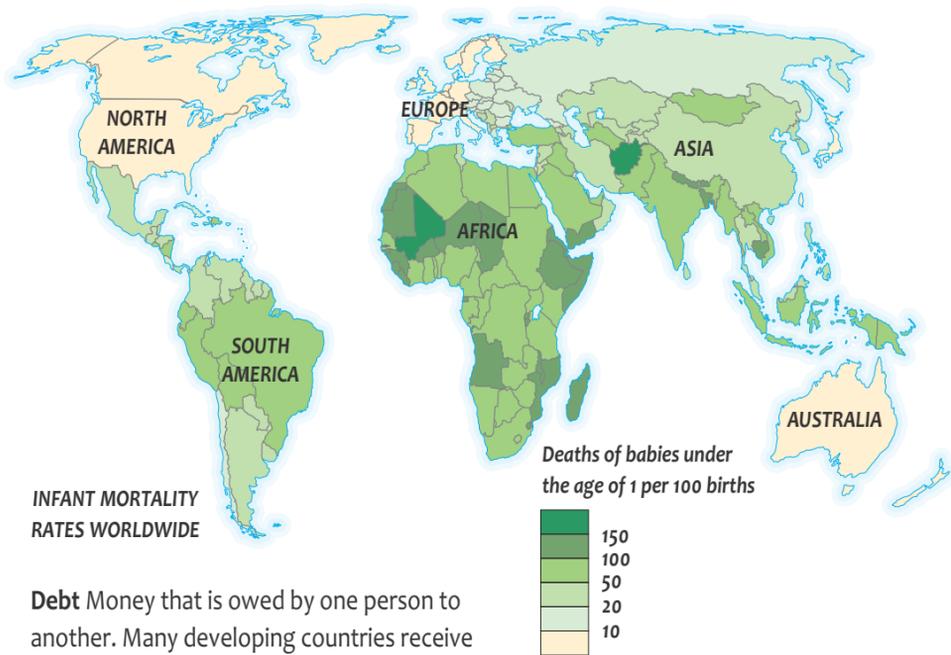
WEALTH & POVERTY

Around 85% of the world's wealth is owned by just 10% of the world's population, mostly in Europe, the USA and Japan. In contrast, about half of the world's population own just 1% of the world's wealth. Poorer regions are often affected by poor sanitation, disease and war, but even within wealthy countries there are people who live in poverty. The wealthiest people have an abundance of money and property, while those living in poverty lack the money needed for basic necessities such as food and shelter.

Absolute poverty The inability to pay for necessities such as water, food, health care, education, shelter or clothing. Around 1.7 billion people in the world live in absolute poverty.

Child labour The employment of children below a set legal age. This interferes with children's education and can be physically or mentally harmful. It is illegal in many countries but still continues in some places.

The rich live alongside the poor in São Paulo, Brazil.



INFANT MORTALITY RATES WORLDWIDE

Debt Money that is owed by one person to another. Many developing countries receive foreign aid in the form of loans (borrowed money). Because interest, a charge for borrowing money, builds up, countries may find themselves with huge debts.

Developed country A country with a high income per person and high standards of living. In developed countries, a large proportion of people are employed in manufacturing and tertiary industries (such as banking and leisure).

Developing country A country with a low income per person and poor healthcare, education and nutrition. In developing countries most people are employed in farming or manufacturing.

Epidemic A disease that spreads quickly among a large number of people. Improved health care and living conditions mean there are fewer epidemics nowadays. But epidemics of some diseases, such as cholera, caught by drinking dirty water, and malaria, spread by mosquitoes, are still common in some developing countries.

Fair trade International trade that guarantees fair prices for producers and aims to improve conditions for workers. Fair trade focuses on products such as sugar, tea and bananas, exported from developing countries to developed ones.

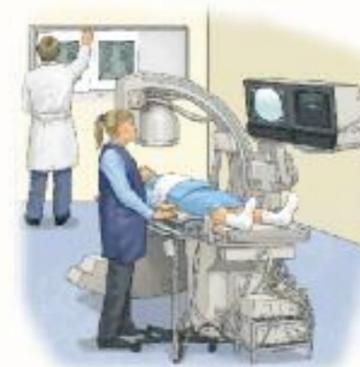
Famine A widespread lack of food that leads to malnutrition, starvation, illness and death. Famines can be caused by natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, insects eating crops or diseases that harm crops. Wars and poor planning by the government can also lead to famine.

Foreign aid Money, food or resources given or loaned to a poorer country by a wealthy one. It includes long term **development aid**, to fund specific projects, and short term aid, such as **food aid**, provided in times of need, such as after an earthquake. Aid may be **bilateral** (given by one country) or **multilateral** (given by many countries).

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) A measure of a country's wealth based on the value of the goods and services produced in the country, including those produced by foreign-owned firms.

Gross National Product (GNP) A measure of a country's wealth, based on the value of all the goods and services produced by the country's population at home and abroad.

Group of Eight (G8) The eight leading industrial nations of the world: the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Russia, the United Kingdom and Canada. They account for more than 60% of the world's total GDP.



An x-ray machine in a hospital. Health care is a strong indicator of a country's development.

Human Poverty Index (HPI) A measure of a country's wealth and poverty assessed according to its wealth (GDP and GNP) as well as its education, living standards and life expectancy.

Infant mortality rate The number of children per 1000 births who die before they are one year old. Infant mortality is an accurate measure of a country's development. The average rate in developing countries is six times greater than that in developed countries.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) An organization that aims to stabilize the international exchange of money. It also assists nations facing financial problems, for example, by offering loans.



A woman in Africa gathers drinking water from a dirty river because it is the only local water supply.

Life expectancy The average age to which a person is expected to live. Average life expectancy for a country is often used to assess its living conditions and health services. Life expectancy is generally highest in wealthier, developed countries.

Malnutrition Lack of nutrition caused by not eating enough food or by eating the wrong foods. Malnutrition mostly arises from poverty and famine and leads to serious illness and eventually death.

Minimum wage The lowest amount of money that employers can legally pay their workers.



A shantytown in South America

Relative poverty The state of being poor compared to others in the same society. Those that live in relative poverty can afford basic necessities such as food and shelter, but do not enjoy the same standard of living as others in their society.

Shantytown A large and sprawling settlement on the outskirts of some cities in developing countries. Shantytown dwellers have often come from the countryside to look for work and live in appalling conditions, building shelters from any materials they can find.

Voluntary aid Money given to poorer countries by charitable organizations, which are dependent on donations from the public. Voluntary aid accounts for less than one-tenth of all foreign aid.

FACTFILE

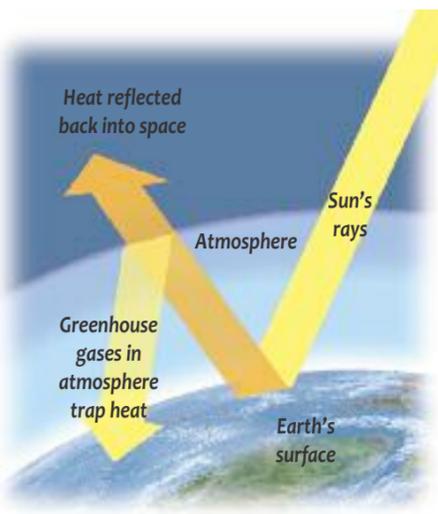
- ★ Only 46% of people in Africa have safe drinking water.
- ★ Sierra Leone has the highest infant mortality rate in the world, with 160 deaths per 1000 births.
- ★ One in six children in the world is in child labour. These figures are particularly high in Africa, where the HIV/AIDS epidemic has orphaned many children. Many orphans need to work to support themselves and their families. Since the epidemic began in the 1980s, 14 million children have been orphaned in southern Africa alone.
- ★ In Tanzania, there is only one doctor for every 125,000 people in the country, the highest population per doctor rate in the world. The lowest rate is in Cuba, where there is one doctor for every 156 people.

ENVIRONMENT

Desertification has left Lake Aral in Russia partially dried up.



People have made many changes to the world we live in and some of these have had harmful effects. Emissions from factories, vehicles, planes and power stations pollute the sea and air and add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. As the world population increases, forests are cut down to make room for new housing and farmland, removing the natural habitats of many animals. Some species are already threatened with extinction.



Accidental pollution The accidental release of pollutants into the environment, for example, when a ship carrying oil is wrecked and leaks oil into the ocean. This may kill or harm thousands of animals.

If global warming causes the polar ice caps to melt, sea levels will rise. This may result in many coastal cities everywhere being flooded by sea water.

Acid rain Rain containing acids that form in the atmosphere when gases emitted by factories and power stations combine with water. Acid rain harms wildlife in lakes, rivers and streams and makes soil too acidic to support plant life.

Air pollution Pollution of the air, caused by fumes and smoke from vehicles, factory chimneys and power stations. Air pollution adds to the greenhouse effect and causes respiratory illnesses, such as asthma.

Biodegradable waste Organic waste, such as food, which decomposes naturally. The decomposition of biodegradable products may release methane, a greenhouse gas.

Chemical waste Any waste made from harmful chemicals. Large areas of the Earth are now partially poisoned by chemical wastes, which harm animals and plants and can expose people to new diseases.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) Chemicals used in refrigerators and some aerosol sprays. When released into the atmosphere, CFCs destroy the ozone layer. Their production in recent years has been greatly reduced.

Climate change Changes to the Earth's weather patterns. Rapid climate change in recent years has been caused by burning fossil fuels and creating excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Rising temperatures may lead to violent storms, droughts and rising sea levels as the polar ice caps melt.

Conservation The management and care of the natural world, to avoid imbalances caused by habitat destruction and the extinction (dying out) of species.



Rubbish being dumped in a landfill

Desertification The process by which forest, grassland or shrub turns to desert. Deserts may be created as a result of persistent drought, or may be made manmade, for example, by farmers overgrazing animals on grassland or diverting rivers and lakes to water nearby crops. There is nearly three times as much desert now as there was 100 years ago.

Eutrophication Excessive nutrients in a lake or river, often caused by chemical fertilizers (22) leaking from the soil. Eutrophication causes a dense growth of water plants, which then decay, depleting the water of oxygen and killing fish.

Global warming The gradual rise in the temperature of the Earth. Over the past century, the average temperature has risen by more than 0.5°C. Most scientists agree this is caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases through burning fossil fuels.

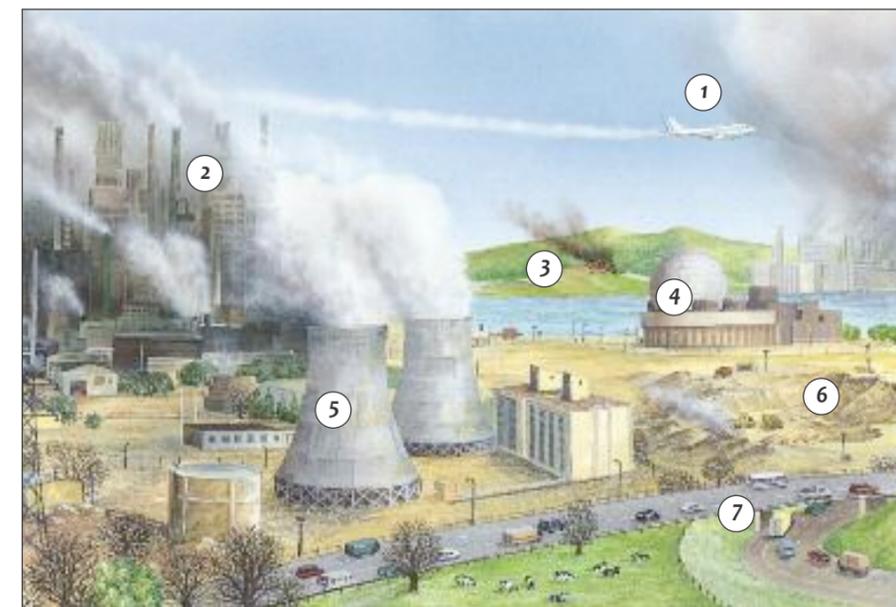
Greenhouse effect The warming of the Earth caused by certain gases in the atmosphere that trap some of the Sun's heat. These gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, are called **greenhouse gases**. If they build up excessively, caused by burning fossil fuels (24) like coal and oil, too much heat is trapped and the Earth becomes warmer.



A duck covered in oil after an oil tanker spill

Incineration Burning waste material to dispose of it. More countries are turning to this as a means of waste disposal as their landfill sites run out. The heat this causes can be used to generate electricity, but the gases given off by burning wastes can contribute to air pollution.

Landfill A place where rubbish is disposed of, usually by burying it. Landfills are the most widely-used method of waste disposal.



Sources of pollution: Aircraft exhaust gases (1), industrial pollution (2), forest clearance (3), nuclear power station (4), coal power station (5), landfill site (6) and vehicle emissions (7).

Ozone layer The thin layer of ozone gas in the Earth's atmosphere. It prevents harmful rays from the Sun reaching the Earth. The release of some chemicals, such as CFCs, into the air damages the ozone layer, allowing more radiation from the Sun to reach the Earth's surface.

Pesticide drift The unintentional drift of chemical pesticides (23) from crops into soil or water, where they poison plants and animals.

Pollution The harmful effect on the natural environment of by-products of human activity, such as chemicals, sewage, pesticides and noise.

Recycling The process of turning wastes, such as glass, metal, paper or plastics, into new objects. This reduces the need for landfills and incineration. Many towns have recycling collections or bins where people can take their recycling.



Recycling bins

Water pollution The contamination of rivers, streams, canals, lakes or oceans. Factories sometimes dump chemicals and other wastes in waterways and, in some places, raw sewage is poured straight into them. Water is also polluted by the drift of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

FACTFILE

- ★ If greenhouse gas emissions keep rising at the current pace, world temperatures could rise by up to 4.5°C by 2100.
- ★ The largest ocean oil spill ever occurred in April 2010, when an oil rig (25) off the coast of Louisiana, USA, exploded. The explosion killed 11 workers and the oil spill is thought to have killed over 8000 fish, turtles, marine mammals and seabirds.
- ★ The ozone layer absorbs 97-99% of the Sun's ultraviolet rays.
- ★ Every tonne of paper recycled saves around 17 trees.
- ★ It takes 70% less energy to make recycled paper than to make paper from fresh wood pulp.

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