

Vocabulary

Below is a glossary of terms used throughout this KS2 unit of work on United States of America

Biome	Biomes are very large ecological areas on the earth's surface, with fauna and flora (animals and plants) adapting to their environment.
Canyon	a deep, narrow valley with steep sides.
Climate	long term weather patterns in an area.
Delta	a landform that forms at the mouth of a river, where the river flows into an ocean, sea, estuary, lake, or reservoir.
Drought	less rainfall than is expected over an extended period of time, usually several months or longer. Or, more formally, it is a deficiency of rainfall over a period of time, resulting in a water shortage for some activity, group, or environmental sector.
Erosion	the act in which rock/soil is worn away, often by water, wind or ice.
Flood plain	an area of low-lying ground adjacent to a river, formed mainly of river sediments and subject to flooding.
Geology	the study of the origin, history, and structure of the earth.
Gorge	a deep, narrow valley with steep sides, usually smaller than a canyon.
Grand Canyon	the large canyon made by the Colorado River in the USA State of Arizona.
Lake	a body of water surrounded by land.
Latitude	a measure of the distance you are located from the equator.

Levee	an embankment built to prevent the overflow of a river.
Longitude	the distance of a place east or west of the Greenwich meridian.
Mountain	a large landform that stretches above the surrounding land in a limited area, usually in the form of a peak.
Mountain range	a series or chain of mountains that are close together.
Plateau	a large region that is higher than the surrounding area and relatively flat.
Population Density	Measurement of the number of people in an area. This can be calculated by dividing the number of people by the area in question.
Population Distribution	The pattern of where people live. Places which are sparsely population contain few people. Places which are densely population contain many people.
Prairie	a large grassland.
River	a large stream of flowing fresh water.
Topography	the study of the shape of the surface features of an area.
Weather	the condition of the earth's atmosphere over a brief period of time e.g. a day.