Y6 Thinking like a geographer

The United Kingdom

Key Knowledge:



The United Kingdom includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each country in the UK has a capital city: London (England), Edinburgh (Scotland), Cardiff (Wales) and Belfast (Northern Ireland).

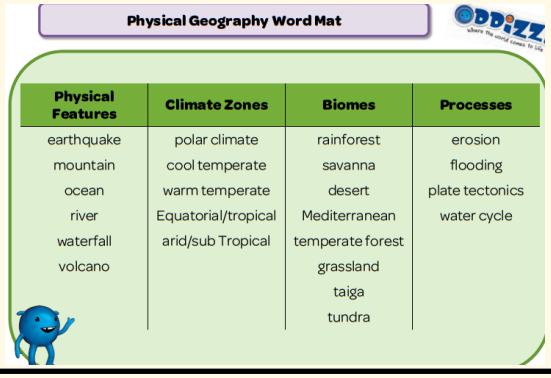
The UK has many physical features, including mountain ranges, rivers and coastlines. There are a number of ways power is generated in the UK. Energy can be generated at gas-fired power stations, by nuclear power and by burning coal. There are also renewable power options that use the wind, sun or water to generate energy.

Key facts

Some of the UK's major cities:

Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Sheffield.

Place names	Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England. Greater London, North Sea, Irish Sea
County/ counties	a type of officially recognised geographical division
City/cities	a human settlement of a substantial size
Economy	the wealth and resources of a place
Development	how places and communities change
Industry	the production of goods (such as cars) or services (such as tourism or entertainment)
Sustainable development	change that respects the natural environment and doesn't harm future generations
Coastline	the land along a coast
Energy source	a natural resource that can be used to provide power, such as for heat or light



Physical Geography Word Mat

Physical Features	Climate Zones	Biomes	Processes
earthquake	polar climate	rainforest	erosion
mountain	cool temperate	savanna	flooding
ocean	warm temperate	desert	plate tectonics
river	Equatorial/tropical	Mediterranean	water cycle
waterfall	arid/sub Tropical	temperate forest	
volcano		grassland	
		taiga	
		tundra	

Learning Questions

What is unique about each of the United Kingdom's countries?

Where do people live in the United Kingdom?

What are the main physical features of the United Kingdom?

How does human activity affect the United Kingdom's landscape?

What are the United Kingdom's main economic activities?

How can the United Kingdom meet its future energy needs?