

## Scientific Geography Definitions

**Altitude:** the vertical height above sea level.

**Biodiversity:** the assortment of species, flora and fauna, found in a specific area.

**Biofuel:** a fuel that is derived from living or natural matter; gas, alcohol, and dead biological materials are known as biofuel.

**Climate Change:** known as the variation of climatic conditions and the result of new weather patterns that are distinct from past decades.

**Conservation:** the act of maintaining natural or human-made landscapes just the way they are, without any changes.

**Deforestation:** the malicious act of cutting down trees and clearing forests for human use.

**Drought:** a prolonged time with less than average rainfall which can negatively affect living conditions.

**Ecosystem:** known as a biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment working together and interacting as one whole system.

**Environment:** it is everything that is around us; all living or non-living things occurring naturally and coexisting together.

**Evaporation:** the process of water turning into vapor is known as evaporation.

**Fauna:** all the animal life present in a particular region or time. Typical fauna of Bolivia includes the alpaca, the Andean flamingo, and the capybara.

**Flora:** the plants of a specific region, geographic location, or geological period. For example, the Scotch Thistle, the Bog Myrtle, and the Gorse are all typical flora of Scotland.

**Fossil Fuel:** a natural fuel such as gas or coal; it is a fuel source that is formed by natural processes or organisms that have existed for millions of years.

**Global Warming:** a gradual increase in the Earth's temperature that has constantly been discussed by environmentalists in recent years. The entrapment of greenhouse gases causes global warming.

**Greenhouse Effect:** a complex phenomenon when the gases in the Earth's trap the solar radiation as a consequence of atmospheric carbon dioxide, water vapor, and methane.

**Hemisphere:** half of a sphere and since the earth is a sphere it means half the earth. The earth is divided by the equator into two hemispheres: the Northern and the Southern. The eastern and western hemisphere can also be divided by the meridian.

**Humidity:** the damp heaviness in the air is known as humidity. It is the result of the water vapor content in the atmosphere.

**Irrigation:** a well-engineered manner of watering agriculture is known as irrigation.

**Jet Stream:** an airstream having a high-velocity and high-altitude which blows from the west to the east.

**Latitude:** imaginary horizontal lines on the Earth that are utilized to specify the north or south position of a coordinate on the Earth's surface.

**Longitude:** imaginary vertical lines used to determine exact geographic coordinates that run along the eastern and western hemisphere of the earth.

**Natural Resources:** substances that occur naturally in nature and have a commercial value.

**Renewable Resources:** a natural resource that is naturally restorative that is more than the rate of human consumption. Examples include geothermal energy, hydroelectricity, and solar power.

**Toxic Waste:** waste material that is composed of chemical compounds which can cause serious illness or death if inhaled or consumed.

**Urban Climate:** the current climate condition of a large metropolitan area that is different from the climate experienced in rural areas.

**Wilderness:** a wild and uncultivated region such as a forest or a desert; no one lives there; it is only inhabited by wild animals.

**Wind Erosion:** the erosion of material caused by the action of wind.

**Yield:** in geography, the term yield refers to produce by a natural process or in return for cultivation. For example, a farmer's yield of corn varies from year to year.