St Meryl School

Geography Vocabulary List for Year 4

Word	Meaning
Rivers and the Water Cycle	
River	A natural flowing watercourse
Source	The starting point of a river
Mouth	The place where a river flows into a larger body of water
Tributary	A smaller river that flows into a larger one
Floodplain	Flat land near a river that may flood
Erosion	The wearing away of land by water, wind, or ice
Deposition	The process of dropping sediment in a new location
Estuary	The wide part of a river where it meets the sea
Water Cycle	The process by which water moves through the Earth and atmosphere
Evaporation	The process of water turning into vapor due to heat
Condensation	The process of water vapor cooling and forming droplets
Precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet, or hail falling from the sky
Collection	Water gathering in rivers, lakes, or oceans
Ox bow lake	A U-shaped lake created when a wide meander is cut off
Meander	A winding curve or bend in a river
South America – Amazon Rainforest	
Amazon Rainforest	A large tropical rainforest in South America
Tropical	A warm and wet climate near the Equator
Biodiversity	A wide variety of plant and animal life
Understory	The layer of vegetation beneath the canopy
Deforestation	Cutting down or removing trees from forests
Indigenous	Native to a specific area
Emergent Layer	The top layer of the rainforest
Canopy	The upper layer of trees in a forest
Forest Floor	The bottom layer of the rainforest

Word	Meaning
Climate	The usual weather conditions in a place
Ecosystem	A community of living organisms and their environment
Conservation	Protecting natural environments from harm
Flora	Plant life in a particular region
Fauna	Animal life in a particular region
Sustainable	Using resources in a way that does not harm the environment
Settlements and Land Use	
Settlement	A place where people establish a community
Urban	Relating to cities
Rural	Relating to the countryside
Suburban	An area near a city with homes and shops
Land Use	How land is used, such as for farming or housing
Industrial	Land used for factories and production
Commercial	Land used for businesses and shops
Residential	Land used for homes
Agricultural	Land used for farming
Infrastructure	The basic facilities and systems needed for a community
Population	The number of people living in an area
Migration	The movement of people from one place to another
Economy	The system of production, trade, and consumption
Transport	The movement of people or goods from one place to another
Urbanization	The growth and expansion of cities