

GLOSSARY

arable land: an area with fertile soil in a moderate climate, with a consistent water supply, that can be used to grow crops

birth rate: the number of live births per thousand people every year

carrying capacity: the maximum number of people that a region can support without running out of resources

climate: the average weather of an area over a long period of time

climate change: changes in long-term weather patterns caused by natural events and human activity

climate model: a mathematical representation of Earth's atmosphere, ocean, and physical processes, often displayed in a map

clustered: close together and unevenly distributed over an area

colonial power: a country that controls one or more colonies

colony: a country, territory, or region that is controlled by another country

corruption: dishonest or illegal actions taken by authorities in power

Crown land: land owned by the federal and provincial governments of Canada

death rate: the number of deaths per thousand people every year

demography: the study of human population statistics

dense: describes high population density—many people crowded together in a given area

desertification: the unwanted process of turning arable land into desert due to factors such as reduced rainfall and poor agricultural practices

developing country: a less wealthy country with limited access to technology and education, with generally low life expectancy

development aid: money or other assistance, such as sharing technology or knowledge, given to support the long-term economic, environmental, social, and political development of countries

direct aid: a donor country giving help directly to a recipient country in need; the use of the aid is decided by the donor country

donor country: a country that gives aid to others

drylands: areas with a long growing season and a semi-desert to moist climate; includes grassland and semi-desert scrub

economic activity: actions that involve producing, distributing, or consuming goods and services

economic development: the improvement of a country's economy

economic system: the structure of a country's economy, including the ownership of resources, and how those resources are used to satisfy people's needs and wants

economy: the system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought in a country or region

equality: a condition in which all people are treated the same way, regardless of individual differences

equity: fairness; ensuring that people have what they need to achieve and maintain health and well-being

erosion: the wearing away of Earth's surface by wind, water, or glacial action

extreme poverty: the condition of being severely deprived of basic human needs

fair trade: global trade in which producers in developing countries get a fair price for their products, workers are treated ethically, and the environmental practices are sustainable

foreign debt: the money that a country owes to individuals, corporations, and governments in other countries

foreign ownership: ownership of a country's resources and businesses by people who are not citizens of the country

global development: the improvement of the quality of life in countries around the world by sustainably improving social, political, economic, and environmental systems

globalization: the process of growing connections around the world

global trade: trade among the countries in the world

gross domestic product (GDP): the total value produced in a country over the period of a year

gross domestic product (GDP) per capita: the total value of everything produced in a country over the period of a year, divided by the number of citizens

Gross National Income (GNI) per person: the total, or gross, income of a country in one year, divided by the number of people

growth rate: a number that shows the increase or decrease in a population during a certain period of time

Human Development Index (HDI): the results of an annual evaluation of countries made by looking at life expectancy, literacy, and income

humanitarian aid: resources given and action taken to save lives and alleviate suffering, especially in times of human-made crisis and natural disasters

indicator: a condition that can be observed or measured

indirect aid: a donor country giving help to a recipient country in need; the use of the aid is decided by the recipient country

inequality: the lack of equality between people or groups of people

Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI): the results of an annual evaluation of countries made by looking at life expectancy, income, and literacy, and how these are distributed among the population

infrastructure: the basic equipment and services that a city or country needs to function well, such as roads, bridges, and schools

landfill site: a place where solid waste is buried under the soil

land reclamation: the creation of new land in coastal areas by depositing materials such as sand, rock, concrete, and sometimes garbage in the water

light pollution: the brightening of the sky with human-made light

linear: forming a line, which can be straight or wavy

megacity: an urban area with more than 10 million people

migration: the movement of people from one place to another

more developed country: a wealthier country with access to technology and education, with generally high life expectancy

non-governmental organization (NGO): a non-profit voluntary group of citizens that is formed for a common interest, is not connected to a government, and is organized on a local, national, or international level

peripheral: distributed along the outer perimeter of an area

physical process: any naturally occurring change on or in Earth, such as an earthquake

pollutant: something that contaminates, making air, land, and water unsafe or unusable

population: a group or type of people

population density: the number of people in a given area

population distribution: the patterns of how people are arranged in an area

poverty: having little or no money, possessions, or other resources to meet basic needs

private sector: the part of the economy that is not under direct government control and is run by individuals or corporations to make a profit

public sector: the part of a country's economy that is controlled by the government

pull factor: a social, political, economic, or environmental attraction that draws migrants to an area

push factor: a social, political, economic, or environmental force that drives migrants away from an area

quality of life: general well-being or happiness of a person or society, as measured by meeting basic needs

recipient country: a country that receives aid from others

rural: areas or populations outside cities

scattered: spread over a large area and not grouped together

settlement hierarchy: an ordering of settlements by size of population

slum: a high-density informal urban settlement with inadequate housing and services

social justice: equal justice, opportunities, and rights for all

sparse: describes low population density—a small number of people scattered over a large area

stakeholder: a person, group, or organization that has an interest in or a concern about something

stewardship: decisions, choices, and actions that have a positive impact on the environment

suburb: a low-density settlement, near a larger urban area, mostly made up of single-family houses

trade: the buying and selling of goods or services

traditional territory: the land that Indigenous peoples have occupied and used for thousands of years

urban: areas or populations inside cities or towns

urbanization: the process by which the percentage of people living in urban areas increases

urban sprawl: the expansion of a city into previously undeveloped areas

wealth: the total value of a country's resources, including material goods, natural resources, and human resources