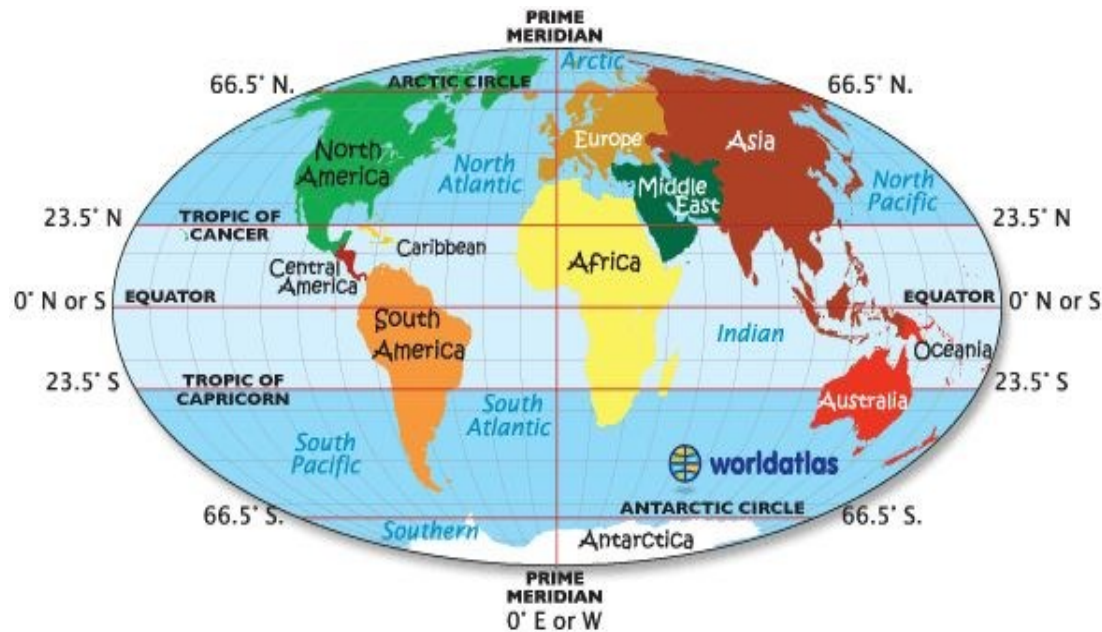


# **Year 4 Geography Knowledge Organisers**





## Y4 Spring Term—Geography—The Polar Regions



A map to show some important lines of longitude and latitude

### Vocabulary

climate	The weather conditions.
climate zone	The weather changes in different parts of the world. Where there are similar weather patterns this is known as a climate zone e.g. There is an arctic climate in the polar regions.
biome	Biomes are regions of the world with similar climate (weather, tem-
vegetation	Plants.
vegetation	A vegetation belt is a region of the world with similar plant life.
coniferous	A forest made up of evergreen trees (cone-bearing, needle-leaved or
tundra	The tundra is a large, barren region with no trees.
glacier	A glacier is a large area of thick ice that remains frozen from one year to the next.
Northern Hemisphere	The Northern half of the Earth.
Southern Hemisphere	The Southern half of the Earth.

### The Arctic

The Arctic is the area of land north of the Arctic Circle. The Arctic has long, cold dark winters and short, cool, light summers. There is little plant life on the Arctic ice sheets but vegetation can be found in the tundra. This is a huge treeless area where the ground is frozen for most of the year but there are small shrubs, grasses and plants. The Arctic has many large land animals including polar bears and reindeer. In the sea, there are large marine animals like walruses, seals and whales. The Arctic has been inhabited for several thousand years. There are many indigenous (native) people who live in the Arctic including Inuit people.

### Antarctica

The Antarctic is a continent located south of the Antarctic Circle. It is mostly covered by ice and is surrounded by the Southern Ocean. Most of the land is ice-covered mountains, glaciers or smooth ice sheets. The Antarctic has long cold winters and short, cold summers. There is very little vegetation and no grasses, shrubs or trees. There are small areas of tundra. Many Antarctic animals spend most of their lives on land but feed in the sea. This includes a huge number of penguins, seals and birds. Antarctica has never had any indigenous (native) people living there so it has no permanent population.

### Climate change

Earth is surrounded by a layer we call the atmosphere, which contains a layer of gas. This gas enables the Sun's rays to get through and heat up the earth. This is incredibly important, as it also allows some of the heat from the Sun, to go back into space, so that Earth does not get too hot, and we are not damaged by the strong rays from the Sun. It acts like a protective blanket! But unfortunately, our protective blanket is being damaged causing something called climate change. As more gases, such as methane and carbon dioxide, are being released into the atmosphere, they stop heat from getting back from the Earth's atmosphere into space which means the Earth is slowly getting warmer.

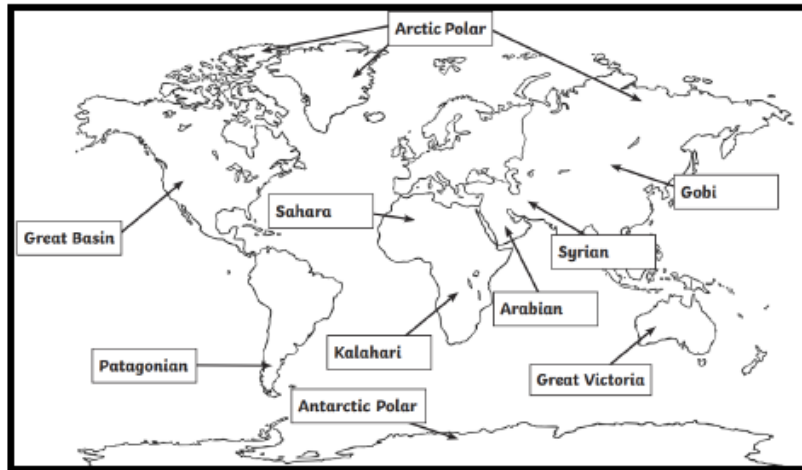
### The impact of climate change on the polar regions

Due to climate change, the polar ice caps are melting as the regions become warmer. Animals in these areas have adapted to live in the cold weather and they rely on the ice cover and having cold and warm seasons to survive. Humans are also affected as many indigenous people rely on local wildlife, like fish and reindeer, as the main part of their diet. As the number of animals decreases, the amount of available food also goes down.

## Y4 Geography Knowledge—Summer—Egypt and The Sahara

### Deserts

A desert is a place that has very little rainfall. Deserts are very dry but not all deserts are hot. There are deserts on all seven of the Earth's continents.



### The Sahara

The Sahara is in northern Africa. It is the third largest desert in the world, behind the Antarctic and Arctic Deserts. The Sahara is the world's hottest desert. Despite the climate, there are many plants and wildlife in The Sahara. Over two million people live in the Sahara Desert.



Many people live a nomadic lifestyle, which means they don't settle in one place but travel within a certain area to find food and water. Other groups of people live in permanent settlements near water

### The River Nile

Egypt has a famous river running through it called the River Nile. The River Nile is the longest river in the world.

### The Journey of the River Nile

The River Nile starts of flowing very quickly in the high mountain areas but by the time it reaches Cairo, it has slowed down and this creates a delta.

### The Nile Delta

A delta is formed when a river slows down so much that it no longer has the power to carry along sediment. Instead, the sediment builds up and creates a landform.



### Flooding

Every year, the Nile River would flood. This flood brought water with nutrients and minerals, which was great for farming as it made the soil very fertile. However, if there was too much water, it could destroy the whole crop. If there was too little water, it could cause a drought. Humans decided to create a dam to control how much water would be released on to the farmland.



### The Aswan High Dam

A dam works by blocking the path of the river. This makes a reservoir behind the wall of the dam. Gates can then be used to control how much water passes from the reservoir into the river.

### Key vocabulary

desert	An area of land that gets no more than 25cm of precipitation each year.	delta	Land formed at the mouth of the river where the river slows and sediment builds up
rainfall	The amount of rain that falls in a certain time.	dam	A structure built across a river or stream to hold the water back.
sand dune	A mound of sand formed by the wind.	river source	Where the river begins.