

### Grade 3: Communities Around the World

#### Unit 1 Geography

## Glossary

### Unit 1 Geography Glossary

basin	an area of low land surrounded by higher land
border	a boundary especially of a country or state
coastline	the outline or shape of the land along the ocean
canyon	a narrow steep valley
cardinal direction	north, south, east, or west
climate	the average weather conditions of a particular place or region over a period of years
compass rose	a device that shows the cardinal and intermediate directions
continent	a large land mass of which there are seven on our planet
desert	dry land with few plants and little rainfall
equator	an imaginary horizontal line that goes around the middle of the earth and is equally distant from the north pole and the south pole; the equator divides the earth into the northern and southern hemispheres
geography	the physical features of earth and their location; the natural parts of an area; a science that deals with the location of living and nonliving things on earth and the way they affect one another
globe	a model of the earth
grid	a network of horizontal and vertical lines used to locate points or places
gulf	a part of the ocean that is partially surrounded by land
hill	gently sloping land that is not as high as a mountain
intermediate direction	northwest, southeast, northeast, southwest
island	land surrounded by water
key	an explanation of the symbols on a map or chart; also called a legend

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lake	water surrounded by land
landform	a natural feature of a land surface
latitude	distance north or south from the equator measured in degrees
legend	an explanation of the symbols on a map or chart, also called a key
location	the exact place, limit, or position of something
longitude	distance measured by degrees east or west from the prime meridian
map	a drawing or picture showing selected features of an area usually drawn to a given scale
mountain	high rocky land with steep sides
ocean	a large body of salt water
parallels	lying or moving in the same direction but always the same distance apart; latitude or longitude lines
peninsula	land surrounded by water on three sides
plains	a broad area of level or rolling treeless country
prime meridian	the meridian of 0° longitude from which other longitudes are calculated
region	a part, portion, or area having no fixed boundaries
river	flowing water that empties into a large body of water
scale	a proportion from which one can determine the actual size of something
time zone	one of the 24 longitudinal divisions of the earth from which time is measured
valley	a low land between hills or mountains