

## GEOGRAPHY · Y3–Y6

# Human & Physical Geography

Knowledge Organiser — Y3–Y6

## Human vs physical features

1

### Physical geography

Natural features of the Earth's surface created by geological or atmospheric processes — not made by people.

*Example: mountains, rivers, volcanoes, coasts, deserts*

2

### Human geography

Features created or significantly shaped by people — settlements, transport, land use, economy.

*Example: cities, roads, farms, factories, ports*

3

### Land use

The way an area of land is used by people. Categories include: agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial, recreational.

4

### Settlement

A place where people live permanently. Ranges from a hamlet to a megacity.

5

### Economic activity

How people earn money and generate wealth. Three sectors: primary (farming, mining), secondary (manufacturing), tertiary (services).

6

### Infrastructure

The basic physical systems a country or region needs to function — roads, railways, power, water, communication.



# Human and physical geography interact

Neither exists in isolation

- RIVERS shape where settlements form (water supply, transport, defence)
- FLAT LAND is easier to build on → cities tend to grow on flat plains
- COASTAL LOCATIONS → fishing, trade, tourism → ports and cities develop
- MOUNTAINS → fewer settlements, but tourism, winter sports, hydroelectric power
- FERTILE SOIL → farming → rural settlements → market towns develop
- NATURAL RESOURCES (coal, oil) → industry develops nearby → urbanisation
- HUMAN ACTIVITY changes physical geography: deforestation causes erosion; dams change river flow; cities create urban heat islands

