

Human Systems Vocabulary

Borders – natural or artificial lines separating two pieces of land. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Boundaries – a line marking the limit or extent within which a system exists or functions, including a social group, a neighborhood, a state, or physical feature. (National Geography Standards, 2012)

Census – an official count of a population conducted by a government at set intervals; typically records details and trends among individuals and groups in the population. (National Geography Standards; 2012)

Community – social group whose members share common heritage, interests, or culture. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Crude birth rate – the total number of live births in a year for every 1,000 people in a population. (National Geography Standards, 2012)

Crude death rate – the total number of deaths in a year for every 1,000 people in a population. (National Geography Standards, 2012)

Cultural landscape – human imprint on the physical environment. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Culture – learned behavior of people, including their languages, belief systems, social structures, institutions, and material goods. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Demographic – having to do with the social characteristics and statistics of a population. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Dialect – distinct variation of a language, usually marked by accents and grammar. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Diffusion – the spread of people, ideas, technology, and products among places. (National Geography Standards, 2012)

Ethnicity – identity in a group sharing genetic characteristics, culture, language, religion, or history. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Fertility rate – average number of children a woman will have. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Forced migration – the movement of people away from their homes due to political conflict, natural disaster or environmental hazard. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Globalization – connection of different parts of the world resulting in the expansion of international cultural, economic, and political activities. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Language – set of sounds, gestures, or symbols that allows people to communicate.

Migration – the act or process of people moving from one place to another with the intent of staying at the destination permanently or for a relatively long period of time. (National Geography Standards, 2012)

Mortality rate – the ratio of the total number of deaths to the total population in a given time and area. Also called the death rate. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Natural increase – the changes in population size, expressed as a percentage, attributable solely to fertility (addition by births) and mortality (subtraction by deaths) excluding migration. (National Geography Standards, 2012)

Pilgrim – person who travels to a place for a religious or spiritual reason. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Population density – the number of people living in a set area, such as a square mile. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Population distribution – arrangement or spread of people or organisms living in a given area. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Population growth – increase in the number of organisms in a specific area. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Population pyramid – graph showing the distribution by gender and age of an area's population. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Primary economic activities – production or distribution of natural resources. (NatGeo Education, 2014).

Pull factors – forces that draw people to immigrate to a place. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Push factors – forces that drive people away from a place. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Quaternary economic activities – activities engaged in the collection, processing, and manipulation of information. (Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts, 2012)

Race – arbitrary grouping of people based on genetics and physical characteristics. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Refugee – person who flees their home, usually due to natural disaster or political upheaval. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Religion – a system of spiritual or supernatural belief. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Secondary economic activities – the conversion of raw materials or resources into finished products. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Settlement – community or village. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Socioeconomic characteristics

Spatial patterns – the systematic arrangement of various physical and human phenomena on Earth's surface. (National Geography Standards, 2012)

Tertiary economic activities – business that provides assistance to a customer. Also called the service sector. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Tradition – beliefs, customs, and cultural characteristics handed down from one generation to the next. (NatGeo Education, 2014)

Transportation – movement of people or goods from one place to another. (NatGeo Education, 2014)