

Exploring Our World with Finn: Physical vs. Human Geography

Learning objective: To distinguish between physical and human geographical features and explain how they interact within a landscape.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping the world from the coastline. He has spotted many features, but he needs your help to classify them. Sort the items in the list below into 'Physical Geography' (natural features) or 'Human Geography' (man-made features). Then, use the questions to think deeply about how these features exist side-by-side.

Word bank: Mountain range · Motorway · River estuary · Harbour · National park · Bridge · Forest · Shopping centre · Volcano · Terraced housing

1. Select three items from the word bank. Categorise them as either physical or human and justify your classification based on how they were formed. (4 marks)

2. Explain why a bridge is classified as human geography even though it is often built over a physical feature like a river. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a natural harbour with a man-made harbour. Why might humans choose to settle near a natural one? (3 marks)

4. What might happen to the local wildlife if a new motorway is built through an ancient forest? Consider both physical and human impacts. (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Is a National Park considered a purely 'physical' feature? Why or why not? (2 marks)

6. If you were designing a new town, how would you balance the need for human features with the protection of the existing physical landscape? (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'before and after' map of a coastal area. In the 'before' sketch, show only physical features like cliffs, beaches, and sea. In the 'after' sketch, add human features like a lighthouse, a pier, and a path, showing how human geography has changed the landscape.



Extension challenge: Research a local landmark in your area. Write a short paragraph explaining its history and identify whether it is a physical or human feature. If it is human-made, describe the physical feature it replaced or sits upon.