

Mapping Our Changing Landscapes: Physical vs. Human Geography

Learning objective: To identify, categorise, and analyse the interaction between physical and human geographical features in the UK.

Finn the dolphin has been exploring the UK's coastline and cities. Below is a list of features he has spotted. Your task is to sort these into 'Physical Features' (natural) and 'Human Features' (man-made). Once sorted, use your geographical knowledge to explain how these features might interact.

Word bank: Mountain range · Motorway · Meandering river · Hydroelectric dam · Coastal cliff · Urban housing estate · National Park · Deep-water harbour

1. Categorise the items from the word bank into a table with two columns: 'Physical Geography' and 'Human Geography'. (4 marks)

2. Explain why a 'Hydroelectric dam' is a unique example of human and physical geography working together. What physical feature does it rely on? (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast a 'National Park' with an 'Urban housing estate'. How does human activity differ in these two locations? (3 marks)

4. Justify your answer: Is a 'Deep-water harbour' primarily a physical or human feature? Give one reason to support your argument. (2 marks)

5. What might happen to the local landscape if a new motorway were built through a protected mountain range? Consider both physical and human impacts. (3 marks)

6. Imagine a town was built at the base of a high mountain range. List two ways the physical environment might affect the design of the human buildings. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a bird's-eye view map of a coastal town. Include at least two physical features (e.g., a cliff or a river) and two human features (e.g., a harbour or a bridge). Label your features clearly using geographical terminology.



Extension challenge: Research a major UK construction project, such as a bridge or a bypass. Write a short report justifying whether you believe the economic benefit to humans outweighs the alteration of the physical environment. Use at least three pieces of geographical evidence to support your stance.