Mapping Our World: Physical vs. Human Geography

Learning objective: To identify, classify, and explain the differences between physical and human geographical features.

Finn the dolphin has been mapping coastlines and cities across the globe. Below is a list of geographical features. Sort these items into two categories: 'Physical Geography' (natural features) and 'Human Geography' (man-made features). Then, explain why each feature belongs in your chosen category.

Word bank: Mountain range · Motorway · Waterfall · Harbour · Tropical rainforest · Bridge · Canyon · Shopping centre

1. Choose one physical feature and one human feature from the list. Explain how each was formed. (2 marks)

2. If a new village is built near a river, which type of geography does the river represent? Why? (2 marks)

3. Sort the word bank into two columns: 'Physical' and 'Human'. (2 marks)

4. Why might humans choose to build a city near a natural physical feature like a river? (2 marks)

5. Are there any features that could be considered both physical and human? Give an example. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a landscape that shows both physical and human geography. Label your drawing clearly with at least three examples of each.

Extension challenge: Research a famous landmark in the UK. Write a paragraph explaining whether it is primarily a physical or human geographical feature, and how it has changed the local landscape over time.