

Geography

1 Put the words and phrases in each list in the first box in order according to their sizes. (1 = the smallest, 4 = the largest). In each list, there is one word that does not belong with the others.

1. forest • tree • copse • beach • wood
2. road • peak • footpath • track • lane
3. mountain • hillock • shore • hill • mountain range
4. gorge • plain • waterfall • hollow • valley
5. gulf • ridge • inlet • bay • cove
6. cliff • brook • river • estuary • stream
7. city • continent • tributary • county • country
8. pond • ocean • sea • cape • lake

1. 1 , 2 , 3 , 4
2. 1 , 2 , 3 , 4
3. 1 , 2 , 3 , 4
4. 1 , 2 , 3 , 4
5. 1 , 2 , 3 , 4
6. 1 , 2 , 3 , 4
7. 1 , 2 , 3 , 4
8. 1 , 2 , 3 , 4

2 Put these words and phrases into their correct category in the boxes below and on the next page. Some can be included in more than one category.

beach cape cliff coast coastline conurbation depopulation
densely populated fertile glacier highlands industrialised
irrigation mountainous mouth overcrowding peak peninsula
plateau ridge shore source summit tributary under-developed
urban sprawl vegetation waterfall

Geographical features associated with water and the sea

Geographical features associated with land, hills and mountains

Geography

Words and phrases associated with agriculture and rural land

Words and phrases associated with towns and cities

3 Complete this report of a journey with words and phrases from Exercises 1 and 2. In some cases, more than one answer is possible.

We began our journey in the capital, Trinifuegos, a 1..... conurbation of almost 10 million. It is not a pretty place; heavily 2....., with huge factories belching out black fumes, and miles of 3..... as housing estates and shopping centres spread out from the 4..... centre for miles. It was a relief to leave.

As soon as we got into the countryside, things improved considerably. The climate is dry and it is difficult to grow anything, but thanks to 5....., which helps bring water in from the Rio Cauto (the huge river with its 6..... high up in the snow-covered 7..... of the Sierra Maestra 8.....), the land is fertile enough to grow the sugar cane on which much of the economy is based. We saw few people, however, as many have moved to the towns and cities to look for more profitable work. It is largely due to this rural 9..... that the sugar-cane industry is suffering.

Further south and we entered the Holguin 10....., with mountains rising high above us on both sides. The land here drops sharply to the sea and the slow-moving waters of the Rio Cauto give way to 11..... which tumble over cliffs, and small, fast-moving 12..... which are not even wide enough to take a boat. At this point, the road we were travelling along became a 13..... which was only just wide enough for our vehicle, and then an unpaved 14..... which almost shook the vehicle to pieces.

And then suddenly, the Pacific 15..... was in front of us. Our destination was the town of Santiago de Gibara, built on a 16..... sticking out into the blue waters. The countryside here undulates gently, with low 17..... covered in rich tropical jungle. The open 18..... surrounding the 19..... of the Rio Cauto as it reaches the ocean is rich and 20....., ideal for growing the tobacco plants which need a lot of warm, damp soil.

That night I lay in my cheap hotel, listening to the waves gently lapping the 21....., and when I eventually fell asleep, I dreamt of the people who had first inhabited this 22..... almost 2,000 years before.