

Vocabulary

Key knowledge

1	continent	A continent is a very large area of land, such as Africa or Asia, that consists of several countries.
2	subcontinent	A large part of a continent.
3	diverse	If a group or range of things is diverse , it is made up of a wide variety of things e.g. <i>U.K. weather is diverse</i> .
4	climate	The climate of a place is the general weather conditions that are typical of it.
5	location	A location is the place where something is.
6	exotic	Coming from a faraway (often tropical) country e.g. <i>The garden was full of exotic plants</i> .
7	culture	The way of life (including the beliefs) of a group of people at a particular time in history.
8	ocean	An ocean is one of the five very large areas of sea on the Earth's surface.
9	sea	The sea is the salty water that is smaller than oceans and are closer to land.
10	nation	A large group of people (often a country) sharing a common land, beliefs and history.
11	species	A species is a type of plant or animal, who all have the same appearance and characteristics.
12	tropical	Tropical weather is hot and damp weather
13	equator	The equator is an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth. Countries closer to the equator are usually warmer and countries further away are usually cooler.

1	There are seven continents in the world: Europe; Asia; North America; South America; Australia; Antarctica; Africa. The largest continent is Asia and Australia is the smallest. Continents are made up of different countries, for example, Europe is made up of countries such as the United Kingdom, France and Spain. Different continents have different climates and are home to different animals, cultures and lifestyles. The subcontinent Central America is home to the following countries: Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Panama.
2	Around 70% of the Earth is covered by oceans. There are five oceans in the world and these are the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern and Arctic. The largest ocean on Earth is the Pacific Ocean which covers around 30% of the Earth's surface. The world is also home to seas. Seas are smaller than oceans and are usually found partially enclosed by land. Some of the seas of the world are: The Black Sea; Mediterranean Sea; Caribbean Sea; Aegean Sea.
3	The country of Costa Rica is found in the subcontinent of Central America. The Caribbean Sea is to the east and the Pacific Ocean is to the west. This part of the world is covered by rainforests and you may find lots of natural resources such as coffee, rice, banana, pineapples and sugar. Central America is covered with volcanoes, which means the soil is perfect for growing crops.

Key features of Costa Rica

People and culture	The official language is Spanish, but a large number of people speak English and Mandarin. Costa Rica is a country proud to have no army. Costa Rica has a population of just under 5 million people—a little more than half the population of New York City.
Animals	There are more than 500,000 animal and plant species in Costa Rica, making the nation one of the 20 most diverse countries in the world. Wildlife is everywhere in Costa Rica though, not just in protected areas. Animals that you can find in Costa Rica include tapirs, turtles, ocelots and sloths.
Climate	The climate in Costa Rica is hot all year round. Temperature changes are low because the country is located near the Equator. The main difference between the seasons is the amount of rainfall. Most of the country is so rainy that it is covered with rainforests. On the Pacific coast, there is a dry season from December to April and a rainy season from May to November. In contrast, near the Caribbean Sea, there is less rainfall throughout the year.
Rainforests	Costa Rica is an incredible place to see unique wildlife and there are 32 national parks, 51 wildlife sanctuaries and 13 forest reserves. Costa Rica rainforests are classed as tropical rainforests and are home to an amazingly varied mix of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, fish and birds. The trees can grow up to 30 meters tall, absorbing about 90% of the sun's light. Underneath these tall trees there are thousands of different species of smaller trees.