

# What is a landscape

## What is a landscape?

*Copy the following into your books.*

Landscape is made up of the visible features of an area of land, including the **physical elements of landforms** such as (ice-capped) mountains, hills, water bodies such as rivers, lakes, ponds and the sea. It also includes **living elements of land cover** including vegetation, (trees and plants) as well as **man-made aspects** including different forms of land use, e.g. industrial land, buildings (houses, factories, castles etc.) and structures (e.g. bridges, docks, electricity pylons waste heaps, etc.) as well as farmland and woodland.

*Read the following:-*

The earth is covered with different types of landscape, and even in a small island like Great Britain there is a huge variety of different landscapes. Within a small area landscapes can be different and the other thing about landscapes is that many of them are constantly changing. In the area around Hetton the landscapes have changed within living memory of older people.

A natural landscape is a landscape that is unaffected by human activity and although they do exist in abundance they are reducing due to man changing them e.g. in the Amazon area of South America much of the jungle has been cut down to make way for cattle farming or mining. In other places which have been changed by man he is now allowing some of these areas to return back to a natural landscape by leaving them to natural influences.



This photograph shows a colliery and pit heap at Wheatley Hill ( 12 km. from Hetton) just 40 years ago. Today the colliery has long gone having been pulled down and the enormous pit heap behind it has been flattened. A similar thing has happened at Hetton where the pit heaps surrounding the old Lyons colliery have been landscaped to make lakes and football pitches. At Elemore colliery (closed in 1974) near Easington Lane the heaps have been flattened and they are now a golf course. The landscapes are always changing.

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Elemore  
Golf Course →



### *Copy the following into your book*

Landscapes change or are different because of the following:-

1. Climate
2. Soil and rock type
3. The influence of man
4. The effect of forces e.g. a) uplifting forces (mountain building) b) destructional forces e.g. earthquakes, volcanoes, land slides, flooding, glaciers, the sea.
5. Drainage patterns - rivers, streams etc.

The climate of a place affects soil conditions. Rainfall and temperature alter soils. For plants to grow they need sufficient water and a temperature which is not too high or too low. Landscapes rely on the type of soil. Some soils are said to be acidic (contain a lot of acids) while others are said to be alkaline where they contain very little acid. Acids build up in boggy areas where water does not flow away very quickly. Some plants like an acid soil whereas others simply can't grow where there is acid.

## What is a landscape



This is a picture of a peat bog. Peat is a soil type where over many years plants have died and been squashed where they form a thick black layer. Peat is very acidic. It is often cut out to provide a fuel for fires in Northern Scotland and in Ireland. Most of the peat is put into bags and taken to garden centres where it is sold to gardeners to mix with soil in their gardens so making it richer and this will help other plants to grow in a healthy man

This picture shows peat stacked up and drying out ready to be stored to be used as household fire fuel or it will be bagged and sold at garden centres, supermarkets etc.



This is the type of landscape where peat bogs are found. Sometimes they are found on mountainsides but more often on high land, which is flat where there is plenty of rain to make standing pools of water and bogs. In the past there may have been many trees in the same area when it was not quite so boggy but these have either died or have been cut down by man for fuel.

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### Marshy Areas

Wet boggy areas are unusual in limestone country. Limestone is a **porous rock**, (lets water run through it easily). Marshes start where there are streams which become **blocked** in some way, often through the actions of man, e.g. the stream may be dammed. Others start where there is constant flooding. After many years the flooded marsh area silts up and dry land emerges.

