



# Year 8 Geography Summer Term



## Key words

**Conflict** – To come to a disagreement or to oppose

**NIMBY** – Not in my back yard – someone who opposes developments in different areas

**Fieldwork** – Research that takes place outside the classroom



## Litter fieldwork

We finish the year with a study into the amount of litter on the school site. We will recap what we mean by fieldwork and figure out the best way to collect and present our data. Once the initial data is collected, students will need to consider what is meant by sustainability and how we can be more sustainable and then come up with ways in which Ramsey can be more sustainable. This is a group work project-based topic that will involve a presentation of finding and suggestions for the future.

## What is the impact of geography on conflict?

As well as conflict having an impact on Geography, Geography, and in particular physical Geography, can have a major impact on conflict.

Historically, when siting settlements, people looked for defensive sites, such as the inside bend of a river meander or the top of a hill, which could be easily defended in the event of an enemy attack.

Topography also played an important part in the Battle of Hastings for example.

Some environments though make conflict challenging. For example, desert landscapes provide little cover and the lack of landmarks makes navigation difficult. This has been one of the most notable challenges about the conflict in Iraq. Marsh land and mountainous regions are also notoriously difficult environments in which to engage in conflict as, in the former, the land is unstable and it is difficult to set up a base or equipment and, in the latter, temperatures are low and conditions harsh.

The physical Geography of Iraq has had a major impact on conflict in the country.

The physical Geography in Iraq has had a major impact on conflict in the country. The desert environment, as well as providing challenges can present some advantages. For example, the flat terrain means that the pace of advance is fast and the lack of cover favours coalition forces who possess weapons with a greater range than the insurgents. However, the Zagros Mountains to the north and the Syrian desert to the west both mean that mass migration of refugees as a result of the conflict is unlikely and instead there is likely to be small pockets of refugee movement. Also, the majority (70%) of Iraq's population live between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers where the capital, Baghdad is also located. It is these areas of dense population where the focus of the conflict is likely to remain and also means that the likelihood of civilian casualties is very high.