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<http://support.esri.com/index.cfm?fa=knowledgebase.gisDictionary.gateway>



GIS

Geographic Information Systems—software that analyzes data to make predictions



GPS

Global Positioning System—hardware or software that gathers data points for analysis.



elevation

The vertical distance of a point or object above or below a reference surface (generally sea level). Used especially in reference to vertical height on land.



spatial

Related to or existing within space



terrain

An area of land having a particular characteristic, such as sandy terrain or mountainous terrain.



extrapolation

Using known or observed data to infer or calculate values for unobserved times, locations or other variables outside a sampled area; may be a good method for making predictions-not always accurate.



feature

A representation of a real-world object on a map



geocoding

The process of finding the location of a street address on a map. The location is defined with an x,y coordinate value



horizon

The apparent or visible junction of land and sky.



layer

A slice of the geographic reality in a particular area, and is more or less equivalent to a legend item on a paper map. On a GIS road map, for example, roads, national parks, political boundaries and rivers are examples of different layers.