

Geography Curriculum Overview



Every Moment Matters

Purpose of study

A high-quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills provide the frameworks and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

Key stage 1

Pupils should develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality. They should understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and begin to use geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness.

Pupils should be taught to:

Locational knowledge

- name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans
- name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas
- Place knowledge
- understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country

Human and physical geography

- identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles
- use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to:

key physical features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather

key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as the countries, continents and oceans studied at this key stage
- use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language [for example, near and far; left and right], to describe the location of features and routes on a map
- use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features; devise a simple map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key
- use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment.

Key stage 2

Pupils should extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This will include the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They should develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

Pupils should be taught to:

Locational knowledge

- locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities
- name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time
- identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night)

Place knowledge

- understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America

Human and physical geography

- describe and understand key aspects of:

physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle

human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied

- use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world
- use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

The National Curriculum Geography Programme of Study provides the content that must be taught to each year group.

Below is a grid showing how at Perran-ar-Worthal School we structure our geography teaching for KS2.

Year 3	Autumn 1		Spring 1		Summer 1	
	France: UK Comparison	Cornwall	Extreme Earth	The Earth	Rainforests	The Tropics
		Location of France		Volcanoes		Climate
		Physical Features		Earthquakes		Layers of the rainforest
		Human Features		Tsunamis		Plants and animals
		Food Tasting		Tornadoes		Life in the rainforest
		Tourism		Impacts on lives		Protecting the rainforests
Year 4	Autumn 1		Spring 1		Summer 1	
	All Around the World	Hemispheres	Water	The water cycle	Edinburgh	Location
		Latitude and Longitude		Clouds		Climate
		Arctic and Antarctic		Why do we need water?		Landscape & physical features
		The Tropics		Treating Water		Human features
		Prime Meridian		Flooding		Changes over time
		Time Zones		Water pollution		Tourism impacts
Year 5	Autumn 1		Spring 1		Summer 1	
	Mountai ns	Mountain Regions	Eastern Europe	Countries and Capitals	Enough for Everyone	Resources for living
		UK Mountains		Climates		Electricity production
		Features of Mountains		Landscapes		Renewable & non-renewable
		How are mountains made?		Physical Features		Food consumption & production
		Mountainous climates		Human Features		Carbon footprints
		Tourism in the mountains		Food		Global impact & projects
Year 6	Autumn 1		Spring 1		Summer 1	
	The Americas	Countries and Capitals	Rivers	Rivers of the world	Our Changing World	Weathering and Erosion
		Climates		Features of a river		Coastlines
		Landscapes		Erosion and deposition		Boarders
		Physical Features		Shaping the landscape		Landscapes
		Human Features		River use		Land use & mapping changes
		Country Research		Flooding and dams		Future changes