

Geography

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 provides the tools and approaches that explain how the Earth’s features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

The national curriculum for geography aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of places, seas and oceans,
- including their defining physical and human characteristics
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical
- features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they bring about
- spatial variation and change over time
- are competent in the geographical skills needed to:
- collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through
- experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical
- processes
- interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps,
- diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through
- maps and writing at length.

Geography skills will be taught as an integrated part of a theme based curriculum, with skills being applied in relation to each class’ current topic.

		Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Place	World	Locate countries and major cities in Europe (including Russia) on a world map.	Locate the countries and major cities of North, Central and South America on a world map, atlas or globe.	Name, locate and describe major world cities.	Explain interconnections between two areas of the world.
	UK	Name, locate and describe some major counties and cities in the UK.	Create a detailed study of geographical features including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers of the UK. Identify the topography of an area of the UK using contour lines on a map.	Describe the relative location of cities, counties or geographical features in the UK in relation to other places or geographical features.	Describe patterns of human population growth and movement, economic activities, space, land use and human settlement patterns of an area of the UK or the wider world.
	Location	Locate significant places using latitude and longitude.	Identify the location of the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn on a world map.	Identify the location and explain the function of the Prime (or Greenwich) Meridian and different time zones (including day and night).	Identify the position and explain the significance of latitude, longitude, equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, the Arctic and Antarctic Circles, the Prime (or Greenwich) Meridian and time zones (including day and night).
	Position	Use the eight points of a compass to locate a geographical feature or place on a map,	Use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and a key to locate and plot geographical places and features on a map.	Use compass points and grid references to interpret maps, including Ordnance Survey maps, with accuracy.	Use lines of longitude and latitude or grid references to find the position of different geographical areas and features.
	Maps	Use four-figure grid references to describe the location of objects and places on a simple map.	Use four or six-figure grid references and keys to describe the location of objects and places on a map.	Identify elevated areas, depressions and river basins on a relief map.	Use grid references, lines of latitude and longitude, contour lines and symbols in maps and on globes to understand and record the geography of an area.
Comparison	Compare and contrast	Classify, compare and contrast different types of geographical feature.	Describe and compare aspects of physical features.	Identify and describe the similarities and differences in physical and human geography between continents.	Describe the climatic similarities and differences between two regions.
Processes	Climate and weather	Explain how the weather affects the use of urban and rural environments. Excessive precipitation includes thunderstorms, downbursts, tornadoes, waterspouts, tropical cyclones, extratropical cyclones, blizzards and ice storms.	Explain climatic variations of a country or continent.	Explain how the climate affects land use	Evaluate the extent to which climate and extreme weather affect how people live.
	Physical processes	Explain the physical processes that cause earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.	Use specific geographical vocabulary and diagrams to explain the water cycle. Water cannot be made.	Describe how soil fertility, drainage and climate affect agricultural land use.	Describe the physical processes, including weather, that affect two different locations.

Geography



Nature	Physical features	Describe the parts of a volcano or earthquake. A volcano is an opening in the Earth's surface from which gas, hot magma and ash can escape.	Identify, describe and explain the formation of different mountain types.	Identify and describe some key physical features and environmental regions of North and South America and explain how these, along with the climate zones and soil types, can affect land use.	Compare and describe physical features of polar landscapes.
	Environment	Identify the five major climate zones on Earth.	Describe altitudinal zonation on mountains.	Name and locate the world's biomes, climate zones and vegetation belts and explain their common characteristics.	Explain how climate change affects climate zones and biomes across the world.
Humankind	Human features and landmarks	Describe the type and purpose of different buildings, monuments, services and land, and identify reasons for their location.	Describe a range of human features and their location and explain how they are interconnected.	Describe and explain the location and purpose of transport networks across the UK and other parts of the world.	Explain how humans function in the place they live.
	Settlements and land use	Describe the type and characteristics of settlement or land use in an area or region.	Explain ways that settlements, land use or water systems are used in different parts of the world.	Describe in detail the different types of agricultural land use in the UK.	Describe the distribution of natural resources in an area or country.
Investigation	Geographical resources	Analyse maps, atlases and globes, including digital mapping, to locate countries and describe features studied.	Study and draw conclusions about places and geographical features using a range of geographical resources, including maps, atlases, globes and digital mapping.	Analyse and compare a place, or places, using aerial photographs, atlases and maps.	Use satellite imaging and maps of different scales to find out geographical information about a place.
	Data analysis			Analyse primary data, identifying any patterns observed.	Collect and analyse primary and secondary data, identifying and analysing patterns and suggesting reasons for them.
	Fieldwork			Gather evidence to answer a geographical question or enquiry.	Investigate a geographical hypothesis using a range of fieldwork techniques.
Materials	Natural and man-made materials			Name and describe the types, appearance and properties of rocks. There are three main types of rock found in the Earth's crust.	Describe and explain the transportation of materials by rivers. Describe the properties of different types of soil.
				Name and locate significant volcanoes and plate boundaries and explain why they are important.	Name, locate and explain the importance of significant mountains or rivers.
Significance	Significant places			Describe how a significant geographical activity has changed a landscape in the short or long term.	Explain how the physical processes of a river, sea or ocean have changed a landscape over time.
Change	Geographical change				