

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.

Place		Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	World	Name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans on a world map. A continent is a large area of land. The world's seven continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America. The five oceans are the Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean and Southern Ocean.	Name and locate seas surrounding the UK, as well as some seas and oceans around the world on a world map or globe. An ocean is a large sea. There are five oceans on our planet called the Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific and Southern Oceans. Seas include the Black, Red and Caspian Seas. The United Kingdom is an island surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, English Channel, Irish Sea and North Sea.	Locate countries in Europe (including Russia) on a world map. Countries in Europe include the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, Italy and Belgium. Russia is part of both Europe and Asia.	Locate the countries of North, Central and South America on a world map, atlas or globe. The North American continent includes the countries the USA, Canada and Mexico as well as the Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. The South American continent includes the countries of Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay.	Name, locate and describe major world cities. Major cities around the world include London, New York, Shanghai, Istanbul, Moscow, Manila, Lagos, Nairobi, Baghdad, Damascus and Mecca.	Explain interconnections between two areas of the world. Geographical interconnections are the ways in which people and things are connected.
	UK	Name and locate the four countries of the UK and their capital cities on a map, atlas or globe. The United Kingdom (UK) is a union of four countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. A capital city is a city that is home to the government and ruler of a country. London is the capital city of England, Belfast is the capital city of Northern Ireland, Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland and Cardiff is the capital city of Wales. The countries of the United Kingdom are made up of cities, towns and villages.	Identify characteristics of the four countries and major cities of the UK. The characteristics of countries include their size, landscape, capital city, language, currency and key landmarks. England is the biggest country in the United Kingdom.	Name, locate and describe some major cities in the UK. Major cities of the United Kingdom include London, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Manchester and Newcastle.	Create a detailed study of geographical features, such as a significant river or mountainous region of the UK. Significant rivers of the UK include the Thames, Severn, Trent, Dee, Tyne, Ouse and Lagan. Significant mountains and mountain ranges include Ben Nevis, Snowdon, Helvellyn, Pen y Fan, the Scottish Highlands and the Pennines	Describe the relative location of a place or geographical feature in the UK in relation to another place or geographical feature. Relative location is where something is found in comparison with other 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. A geographical pattern is the arrangement of objects on the Earth's surface in relationship to one another.

Geography

Comparison	Location	Locate hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the equator. Warmer areas of the world are closer to the equator and colder areas of the world are further from the equator. The equator is an imaginary line that divides the Earth into two parts: the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Continents have different climates depending on where they are in the world. The climate of a place can be identified by the types of weather, plants and animals found there.	Locate the equator and the North and South Poles on a world map or globe. The equator is an imaginary line that divides the world into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The North Pole is the most northern point on Earth. The South Pole is the most southern point on Earth.	Locate significant places using latitude and longitude. Latitude is the distance north or south of the equator and longitude is the distance east or west of the Prime Meridian.	Identify the location of the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn on a world map. The Tropic of Cancer is 23.4 degrees north of the equator and Tropic of Capricorn is 23.4 degrees south of the equator.	Identify the location and explain the function of the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and different time zones (including day and night). The Prime (or Greenwich) Meridian is an imaginary line that divides the Earth into eastern and western hemispheres. The time at Greenwich is called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Each time zone that is 15 degrees to the west of Greenwich is another hour earlier than GMT. Each time zone 15 degrees to the east is another hour later.	Identify the position and explain the 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). The Northern Hemisphere is the part of Earth that is to the north of the equator. The Southern Hemisphere is the part of Earth that is to the south of the equator. The Prime Meridian is the imaginary line from the North Pole to the South Pole that passes through Greenwich in England and marks 0° longitude, from which all other longitudes are measured.
		Use simple directional and positional language to give directions, describe the location of features and discuss where things are in relation to each other. Positional language includes behind, next to and in front of. Directional language includes left, right, straight ahead and turn.	Use simple compass directions to describe the location of features or a route on a map. The four cardinal points on a compass are north, south, east and west. A route is a set of directions that can be used to get from one place to another.	Use eight points of a compass to locate a geographical feature or place on a map. The eight points of a compass are north, south, east, west, north-east, north-west, south-east and south-west.	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. The four cardinal directions are north (N), east (E), south (S) and west (W), which are at 90° angles on the compass rose. The four intercardinal (or ordinal) directions are halfway between the cardinal directions: north-east (NE), south-east (SE), south-west (SW) and north-west (NW).	Use compass points and grid references to interpret maps, including Ordnance Survey maps, with accuracy. Compass points can be used to describe the relationship of features to each other or describe the direction of travel. Accurate grid references identify the position of key physical and human features.	Use lines of longitude and latitude or grid references to find the position of different geographical areas and features. Invisible lines of latitude run horizontally around the Earth and show the northerly or southerly position of a geographical area. Invisible lines of longitude run vertically from the North and South Pole and show the westerly or easterly position of a geographical area.
		Draw or read a simple picture map. A map is a picture or drawing of an area of land or sea that can show human and physical features. A key is used to show features on a map. A map has symbols to show where things are located.	Draw or read a range of simple maps that use symbols and a key. A map is a picture or drawing of an area of land or sea that can show human and physical features. Maps use symbols and a key. A key is the information needed to read a map and a symbol is a picture or icon used to show a geographical feature.	Use four-figure grid references to describe the location of objects and places on a simple map. A four-figure grid reference contains four numbers. The first two numbers are called the easting and are found along the top and bottom of a map. The second two numbers are called the northing and are found up both sides of a map. Four-figure grid references give specific information about locations on a map.	Use four or six-figure grid references and keys to describe the location of objects and places on a map. A six-figure grid reference contains six numbers and is more precise than a four-figure grid reference. The first three figures are called the easting and are found along the top and bottom of a map. The second three figures are called the northing and are found up both sides of a map. Six-figure grid references give detailed information about locations on a map.	Identify elevated areas, depressions and river basins on a relief map. The geographical term 'relief' describes the difference between the highest and lowest elevations of an area. Relief maps show the contours of land based on shape and height. Contour lines show the elevation of the land, joining places of the same height above sea level. They are usually an orange or brown colour. Contour lines that are close together represent ground that is steep. Contour lines that are far apart show ground that is gently sloping or flat.	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. A geographical area can be understood by using grid references and lines of latitude and longitude to identify position, contour lines to identify height above sea level and map symbols to identify physical and human features.
		UK					Identify the topography of an area of the UK using contour lines on a map. Topography is the arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area.
Comparison	Compare and contrast	Identify the similarities and differences between two places. Places can be compared by size, amenities, transport, location, weather and climate.	Describe and compare the human and physical similarities and differences between an area of the UK and a contrasting non-European country. A non-European country is a country outside the continent of Europe. For example, the USA, Australia, Iceland and Egypt are non-European	Classify, compare and contrast different types of geographical feature. Geographical features created by nature are called physical features. Physical features include beaches, cliffs and mountains. Geographical features created by humans are called human	Describe and compare aspects of physical features. A physical feature is one that forms naturally and can change over time due to physical processes, such as erosion and weathering. Physical features include rivers, forests, hills, mountains and cliffs. An aspect of a physical feature might be the type of	Identify and describe the similarities and differences in physical and human geography between continents. The seven continents (Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America) vary in size, shape, location, population and climate.	Describe the climatic similarities and differences between two regions. Climate is the long-term pattern of weather conditions found in a particular place. Climates can be compared by looking at factors including maximum and minimum levels of precipitation and average monthly temperatures.

Geography

			countries. European countries include the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Spain.	features. Human features include houses, factories and train stations.	mountain, such as dome or volcanic, or the type of forest, such as coniferous or broad-leaved.		
Processes	Climate and weather	Identify patterns in daily and seasonal weather. There are four seasons in the UK: spring, summer, autumn and winter. Each season has typical weather patterns. Types of weather include sun, rain, wind, snow, fog, hail and sleet. In the United Kingdom, the length of the day varies depending on the season. In winter, the days are shorter. In summer, the days are longer. Symbols are used to show different types of weather.	Describe simple weather patterns of hot and cold places. A weather pattern is a type of weather that is repeated.	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. Climatic variation describes the changes in weather patterns or the average weather conditions of a country or continent.	Explain how the climate affects land use. Changes to the weather and climate (temperature, weather patterns and precipitation) can affect land use. Farmers living in different countries adapt their farming practices to suit their local climate and landscape.	Evaluate the extent to which climate and extreme weather affects how people live. Climate and extreme weather can affect the size and nature of settlements; shelters and buildings; diet; lifestyle (settled or nomadic); jobs; clothing; transport and transportation links and the availability of natural resources.
	Physical processes	Describe in simple terms how a physical process has affected an area, place or human activity. Weather is a physical process.	Describe in simple terms, the effects of erosion. Erosion is a physical process that involves the weathering and movement of natural materials, such as rock, sand and soil. Erosion is caused by wind and water, including waves, floods, rivers and rainfall.	Explain the physical processes that cause earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes happen when two tectonic plates push into each other, pull apart from one another or slide alongside each other. The centre of an earthquake is called the epicentre.	Use specific geographical vocabulary and diagrams to explain the water cycle. Water cannot be made. It is constantly recycled through a process called the water cycle. The four stages of the water cycle are evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. During the water cycle, water changes state due to heating and cooling.	Describe how soil fertility, drainage and climate affect agricultural land use. Soil fertility, drainage and climate influence the placement and success of agricultural land.	Describe the physical processes, including weather, that affect two contrasting locations. Physical processes that can affect a landscape include erosion by wind, water or ice; the deposition of stone and silt by water and ice; land movement, such as landslides and tectonic activity, such as earthquakes or volcanic eruptions.
Nature	Physical features	Use basic geographical vocabulary to identify and describe physical features. Physical features are naturally-created features of the Earth.	Describe the size, location and position of a physical feature. A physical feature is one that forms naturally, and can change over time due to weather and other forces.	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. They are usually found at meeting points of the Earth's tectonic plates. When a volcano erupts, liquid magma collects in an underground magma chamber. The magma pushes through a crack called a vent and bursts out onto the Earth's surface. Lava, hot ash and mudslides from volcanic eruptions can cause severe damage.	Identify, describe and explain the formation of different mountain types. Mountains form over millions of years. They are made when the Earth's tectonic plates push together or move apart. Mountains are also formed when magma underneath the Earth's crust pushes large areas of land upwards. There are five types of mountain: fold, fault-block, volcanic, dome and plateau.	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. North America is broadly categorised into six major biomes: tundra, coniferous forest, grasslands (prairie), deciduous forest, desert and tropical rainforest. Due to its extreme geographic variation, South America has a vast variety of biomes, including desert, alpine, rainforest and grasslands.	Compare and describe physical features of polar landscapes. The Arctic is a sea of ice surrounded by land and located at the highest latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere. It extends over the countries that border the Arctic Ocean, including Canada, the USA, Denmark, Russia, Norway and Iceland. Antarctica is a continent located in the Southern Hemisphere. Antarctica does not belong to any country. Physical features typical of the Arctic and Antarctic regions include glaciers, icebergs, ice caps, ice sheets, ice shelves and sea ice.
	Environment	Describe how pollution and litter affect the local environment and school grounds. Litter and pollution have a harmful effect on the areas where we live, work and play.	Describe ways to improve the local environment. The local environment can be improved by picking up litter, planting flowers and improving amenities.	Identify the five major climate zones on Earth. The Earth has five climate zones: desert, equatorial, polar, temperate and tropical.	Describe altitudinal zonation on mountains. Altitudinal zonation describes the different climates and types of wildlife at different altitudes on mountains. Examples include forests that grow at low altitudes and support a wide variety of plants and animals, tundra that is found at higher altitudes and supports plants and animals that are adapted to harsher environments and the summits of mountains, which are usually covered in ice and snow and don't suport any life.	Name and locate the world's biomes and climate zones and explain their common characteristics. The Earth has five climate zones: desert, equatorial, polar, temperate and tropical. A biome is a large ecological area on the Earth's surface, such as desert, forest, grassland, tundra and aquatic. Biomes are often defined by a range of factors, such as temperature, climate, relief, geology, soils and vegetation.	Explain how global warming affects climate zones and biomes across the world. Research indicates that global warming is caused by human activity (burning fossil fuels, deforestation, pollution and methane-producing livestock) and causes changes to the world's weather; the melting of polar ice caps; rising sea levels; destruction of coral reefs and the shifting of the seasons.
	Physical features			Name and describe properties of the Earth's four layers. The Earth is made of four different layers. The inner core is made mostly of hot, solid iron and nickel, and the outer core is made of			

Geography

				liquid iron and nickel. The mantle is made of solid rock and molten rock called magma. The crust is a thin layer of solid rock that is broken into large pieces called tectonic plates. These pieces move very slowly across the mantle.			
Humankind	Human features and landmarks	Name and describe the purpose of human features and landmarks. Human features are man-made and include factories, farms, houses, offices, ports, harbours and shops. Landmarks and monuments are features of a landscape, city or town that are easily seen and recognised from a distance. They also help someone to establish and describe a location.	Use geographical vocabulary to describe how and why people use a range of human features. Human features are man-made and include castles, towers, schools, hospitals, bridges, shops, tunnels, monuments, airports and roads. People use human features in different ways. For example, an airport can be used for work or leisure and a harbour can be used for industry or travel.	Describe the type and purpose of different buildings, monuments, services and land, and identify reasons for their location. Services include banks, post offices, hospitals, public transport and garages. Land use types include leisure, housing, industry, transport and agriculture.	Describe a range of human features and their location and explain how they are interconnected. Human features can be interconnected by function, type and transport links.	Describe and explain the location and purpose of transport networks across the UK and other parts of the world. Transport networks can be tangible, such as rails, roads or canals, or intangible, such as air and sea corridors. These networks link places together and allow for the movement of people and goods. Transport networks are usually built where there is a high demand for the movement of people or goods. They run between places where journeys start or finish, such as airports, bus stations, ferry terminals or railway stations.	Explain how humans function in the place they live. The distribution of and access to natural resources, cultural influences and economic activity are significant factors in community life in a settlement.
Investigation	Geographical resources	Identify features and landmarks on an aerial photograph or plan perspective. An aerial photograph or plan perspective shows an area of land from above.	Study aerial photographs to describe the features and characteristics of an area of land. An aerial photograph can be vertical (an image taken directly from above) or oblique (an image taken from above and to the side).	Analyse maps, atlases and globes including digital mapping to locate countries and describe features studied. Maps, globes and digital mapping tools can help to locate and describe significant geographical features.	Study and draw conclusions about places and geographical features using a range of geographical resources including maps, atlases, globes and digital mapping. An atlas is a collection of maps and information that shows geographical features, topography, boundaries, climatic, social and economic statistics of an area.	Analyse and compare a place or places using aerial photographs, atlases and maps. Aerial photography is used in cartography, land-use planning and environmental studies. It can be used alongside maps to find out detailed information about a place or places.	Use satellite imaging and maps of different scales to find out geographical information about a place. Satellite images are photographs of Earth taken by imaging satellites.
	Data analysis	Collect simple data during fieldwork activities. Data is information that can be collected and used to answer a geographical question.	Collect and organise simple data in charts and tables from primary sources (fieldwork, observation) and secondary sources (maps, books). Data can be recorded in different ways, including tables, charts and pictograms.	Analyse data collected from primary sources, identifying any patterns observed. Primary data includes information gathered by observation and investigation.	Collect and analyse data from primary and secondary sources, identifying and analysing patterns and suggesting reasons for them. Secondary data includes information gathered by geographical reports, surveys, maps, research, books and the internet.	Summarise geographical data to draw conclusions. Geographical data, such as demographics or economic statistics, can be used as evidence to support conclusions.	Analyse and present increasingly complex data, comparing data from different sources and suggesting why data may vary. Data helps us to understand patterns and trends but sometimes there can be variations due to numerous factors (human error, incorrect equipment, different time frames, different sites, environmental conditions and unexplained anomalies).
Materials	Natural and man-made materials	Identify natural and man-made materials in the environment. A material is something used to build or make something else. Natural materials are dug out of the ground, grown or taken from a living thing. Man-made materials are often made from natural materials but have been changed to have different properties.	Describe the properties of natural and man-made materials and where they are found in the environment. Materials found in the environment can be natural (rock, stone, water, sand, soil, water and clay) and man-made (brick, glass, plastic and concrete). Natural and man-made materials are used to make human features.	Name and describe the types and properties of rocks. There are three main types of rock found in the Earth's crust. They are sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic. Sedimentary rocks are made from sediment that settles in water and becomes squashed over a long time to form rock. They are often soft, permeable, have layers and may contain fossils. Igneous rocks are made from cooled magma or lava. They are usually hard, shiny and contain visible crystals. Metamorphic rocks are formed when existing rocks are heated by the magma under the Earth's crust or	Describe and explain the transportation of materials by rivers. Rivers transport material in four ways. Solution is when minerals are dissolved and carried in the water. Suspension is when fine, light material is carried. Saltation is when small pebbles and stones are carried along the riverbed. Traction is when large boulders and rocks are rolled along the riverbed.	Explain how the topography and soil type affect the location of different agricultural regions. The topography of an area intended for agricultural purposes is an important consideration. In particular, the topographical slope or gradient plays a large part in controlling hydrology (water) and potential soil erosion.	Explain how the presence of ice make the polar oceans different to other oceans on Earth. The polar oceans are significantly colder than other world oceans. This influences the presence of sea ice, glaciers and icebergs.

Geography

	Natural and man-made materials			squashed by the movement of the Earth's tectonic plates. They are usually very hard and often shiny.		Describe the properties of different types of soil. Different types of soil include clay, sandy, silty and loamy.	
Significance	Significant places	Name important buildings and places and explain their importance. A place can be important because of its location, buildings, landscape, community, culture and history. Important buildings can include schools, places of worship and buildings that provide a service to the community, such as shops and libraries. Some buildings are important because they tell us something about the past.	Name, locate and explain the significance of a place. A significant place is a location that is important to a community or society. Places can also be significant because of religious or historic events that may have happened in the past near the location. Significant places can also include monuments, such as the Eiffel Tower, or natural landscapes, such as the Great Barrier Reef.	Name and locate significant volcanoes and plate boundaries and explain why they are important. Significant volcanoes include Mount Vesuvius in Italy, Laki in Iceland and Krakatoa in Indonesia. Significant earthquake-prone areas include the San Andreas Fault in North America. The Ring of Fire runs around the edge of the Pacific Ocean and is where many plate boundaries in the Earth's crust converge. Over three-quarters of the world's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions happen along the Ring of Fire.	Name, locate and explain the importance of significant mountains or rivers. Significant mountain ranges include the Himalayas, Urals, Andes, Alps, Atlas, Pyrenees, Apennines, Balkans and Sierra Nevada. Significant rivers include the Mississippi, Nile, Thames, Amazon, Volga, Zambezi, Mekong, Ganges, Danube and Yangtze.	Identify some of the problems of farming in a developing country and report on ways in which these can be supported. Farming challenges for developing countries include poor soil, disease, drought and lack of markets. Education, fair trade and technology are ways in which these challenges can be reduced.	Name, locate and explain the distribution of significant industrial regions around the world. North America, Europe and East Asia are the main industrial regions of the world due to a range of factors (access to raw materials, transportation, fresh water, power and labour supply).
Change	Geographical change	Describe how a place or geographical feature has changed over time. Geographical features can change over time.	Describe how an environment has or might change over time. An environment or place can change over time due to a geographical process, such as erosion, or human activity, such as housebuilding.	Describe how a significant geographical activity has changed a landscape in the short or long term. Significant geographical activity includes earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. These are known as natural disasters because they are created by nature, affect many people and cause widespread damage.	Explain how the physical processes of a river, sea or ocean have changed a landscape over time. Rivers, seas and oceans can transform a landscape through erosion, deposition and transportation.	Describe how the characteristic of a settlement changes as it gets bigger (settlement hierarchy). Settlements come in many different sizes and these can be ranked according to their population and the level of services available. A settlement hierarchy includes hamlet, village, town, city and large city.	Present a detailed account of how an industry including tourism has changed a place or landscape over time. Tourism is an industry that involves people travelling for recreation and leisure. It has had an environmental, social and economic impact on many regions and countries.