



Why is geography important and how does each topic prepare children for future learning?

Geography education inspires pupils to have a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people – a lifelong skill. Children study the relationship between humans and their environments, developing skills and knowledge to help them become global citizens, working for the collective goal of a better future for all.

In EYFS, children cover the geography objectives from Development Matters through finding out about our local area and a constituent country of the UK. They explore geographical concepts through topic work and child-initiated learning opportunities. In KS1 and KS2, children cover the National Curriculum in geography through two topics. The first topic is linked to their class name which is a country in the world. Throughout their time at Furze Primary, children will learn about two European countries, a country in the Americas, a country in Asia, a country in Oceania and a country in Africa. The second topics develop children's map skills, further develop their knowledge of the globe and explore aspects of physical geography and how they relate to human geography. Every topic includes some outdoor learning and opportunities to develop fieldwork skills.

Barack Obama summed it up best by saying:

“The study of geography is about more than just memorizing places on a map. It's about understanding the complexity of our world, appreciating the diversity of cultures that exists across continents. And in the end, it's about using all that knowledge to help bridge divides and bring people together.”



Outline of the core knowledge and vocabulary for each topic

EYFS – finding out and the UK and local area

Key Vocabulary: Country, town, village. Local place names: Redhill, Merstham, Furze Primary School.
UK constituent country names: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, positional language: near, far, next to. Texture language: smooth, hard, lumpy, rough, soft. Weather language: cold, hot, warm, wind, snow, rain, clouds.

Core knowledge for the nursery:

- Know that there are different countries in the world and talk about the difference they have experienced or seen in photos or videos.
- Broaden experiences and vocabulary in hands-on exploration of natural materials including materials with similar and/or different properties.

Core knowledge for reception:

- Know names of constituent countries of the UK.
- Know names of significant local places.
- Be able to draw information from a simple map.
- Know that some places are special to members of their community.
- Know about and be able to talk about some differences between life in this country and life in other countries.
- Know that some environments are different to the one they live in.





Year 1 Geography Class country study, Europe

Key Vocabulary: continent, Europe, United Kingdom, flag, language, greeting, capital city, tradition, festival, cuisine, attraction, landmark. Names of countries, capitals, festivals, foods, attractions, landmarks.

Core knowledge: By the end of the unit, children should:

- Know what geography is.
- Know names and locations of world's continents.
- Name and locate four countries of the UK and class country.
- Recognise and describe flag of class country.
- Know language of class country and be able to say some simple greetings.
- Know what food and drink is traditional in class country.
- Name capital city of class country.
- Know some key landmarks and attractions in class country's capital city.
- Know about a traditional festival in class country.



Year 1 Geography - Our local area

Key Vocabulary: map, key, directions, human geography (human-made), physical geography (natural). Names of key geographical features: village, town, city, bridge, church, houses, coastline, river, mountain, forest/woodland. Language to describe distance: near/far. Language to give directions: turn left/turn right/go straight on.

Core knowledge: By the end of the unit, children should:

- Begin to understand how to use a map.
- Know if places are near or far.
- Know how to follow simple directions using left and right.
- Begin to understand the difference between physical and human geography.
- Know that human and physical features look different on maps.
- Understand keys on maps.
- Be able to identify key geographical features of my local area.





Year 2 Geography – Class country study (northern Europe)

Key Vocabulary: map, north, south, east, west, continent, country, ocean, population, capital city, weather, landscape, tradition, transport,

Core knowledge: By the end of the unit, children should:

- Know cardinal compass points.
- Know the world has 7 continents and name some.
- Know the world has 5 oceans and name some.
- Know the population, language and capital city of class country.
- Know what the weather is like in your class country compared to in the UK.
- Know some traditional foods eaten in your class country.
- Know key modes of transport in your class country.
- Know some important traditions in your class country.
- Know some animals that are native to your class country and their habitats.

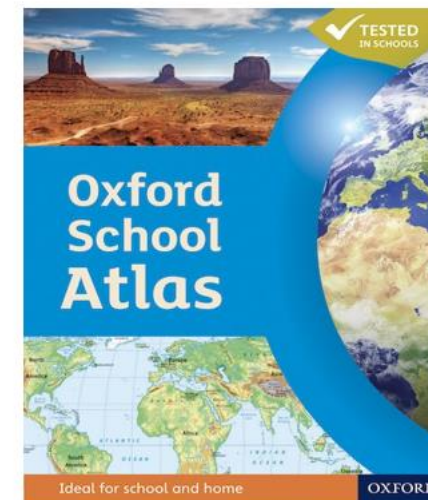


Year 2 Geography – Understanding maps

Key Vocabulary: map, compass, north, south, east, west, continent, country, ocean, population, capital city, climate, equator, northern hemisphere, southern hemisphere, tropic of Capricorn, tropic of Cancer, North Pole, South Pole, town, city, house, shop, library, park, green space, desert, rainforest, hill, valley, human and physical geography

Core knowledge: By the end of the unit, children should:

- Name and locate the world's 7 continents and 5 oceans.
- Name hot and cold countries of the world and locate them on a globe or map.
- Name 4 different countries of the UK + Northern Ireland and their capital cities.
- Name and locate: The River Thames, Ben Nevis, Mount Snowdon, Dunluce Castle
- Know the physical features of Merstham: roads, pavements, paths, houses, flats, shops, parks, gardens, grass verges, trees, plants.
- Understand the concept of a birds'-eye view.
- Understand how to use a key on a map.





Year 3 Geography – Class Country Study (The Americas)

Key Vocabulary: Continent, Country, Ocean/Seas, Atlas, human/physical geography, cities, towns, villages, bridges, ports, hills, mountains, rivers, rainforest

Core knowledge: By the end of the unit, children should:

- Know names and locations of continents and oceans.
- Locate known countries and new class country on world map.
- Identify the flags of South America.
- To know the difference between human and physical geography.
- Identify some human and physical geographical features of UK and class country. (include: cities, towns, villages, bridges, ports, hills, mountains, rivers, rainforest)
- Know and describe an important landmark in class country.
- Know how to capture a reader's attention with fascinating facts, questions and images. Use this knowledge to present information about class country.



Year 3 Geography – Tropical Rainforests

Key Vocabulary: Equator, Tropic of Capricorn, Tropic of Cancer, Climate, Rainforest; Layers of the rainforest: Emergent, Canopy, Understory, Forest Floor, Habitats, Deforestation, Tribes, Logging, Mining, Forest fires, Rainfall, Temperature, Humidity.

Core knowledge: By the end of the unit, children should:

- Know what the equator is and that countries on the equator are hot.
- Know what the tropics of cancer and Capricorn are and that the climate between the tropics is hot and wet.
- Know tropical rainforests are in the tropics and what countries they are found in.
- Know what a biome is. Know that a tropical rainforest is a biome.
- Know the names of and describe the different layers of a tropical rainforest.
- Know some of the plants that grow in each layer of a tropical rainforest.
- Know what animals live in different layers of a tropical rainforest.
- Compare the lives of children in a tropical rainforest to the lives of children in Merstham.
- Know some products that come from tropical rainforests.
- Know what Fair Trade and Rainforest Certified mean.
- Be aware of deforestation and know why it is important to protect the tropical rainforests.



Year 4 Geography – Class country study (Asia)

Key Vocabulary: physical geography, human geography, names of languages, names of religions, significant historical event (and names of these), significant tradition (and names of these), names of artists, techniques, materials, style

Core knowledge: By the end of the unit, children should:

- Know where class country is located in the world.
- Know how to use an atlas to find location of countries in the world.
- Know the difference between physical and human geography.
- Know the languages spoken and religions of class country.
- Know about one significant historical event or tradition in class country.
- Know about one significant historical event or tradition in class country.
- Learn about art in class country: name artists, techniques, materials, style.



Year 4 Geography – Tectonic plates and Volcanoes

Key Vocabulary: tectonic plates, continental drift, pressure, friction, Pangea, layers of the Earth, crust, mantle, inner core, outer core, volcano, magma, lava, pyroclastic flow, geothermal energy, Ring of Fire

Core knowledge: By the end of the unit, children should:

- Know that the earth has changed.
- Know the surface of the earth is divided into tectonic plates and these plates move.
- Know that plate movement is believed to have caused continental drift.
- Know that the earth is made of layers and name the layers of the earth.
- Know that tectonic plates move, and this can cause earthquakes.
- Know volcanic eruptions are caused by tectonic plates moving towards each other.
- Know that many active volcanoes are located around the Ring of Fire.
- Know what happens during a volcanic eruption including that magma, ash and gasses are released.
- Know that there are different types of volcanoes.
- Know what a pyroclastic flow is.
- Understand why people live near volcanoes.





Year 5 Geography – Class country study (Oceania)

Key Vocabulary: physical geography, human geography, biomes, flora, fauna, topography, import, export

Core knowledge: By the end of the unit, children should:

- Know location of class country.
- Know which countries border class country – or are nearby if it is an island.
- Know name and location of capital city and at least one other major city.
- Know which biomes are in class country.
- Know some of the flora and fauna that lives in one of the biomes.
- Know and represent on a map, key topographical features of class country.
- Know what life is like for children in class country.
- Know major types of employment and imports and export for class country.

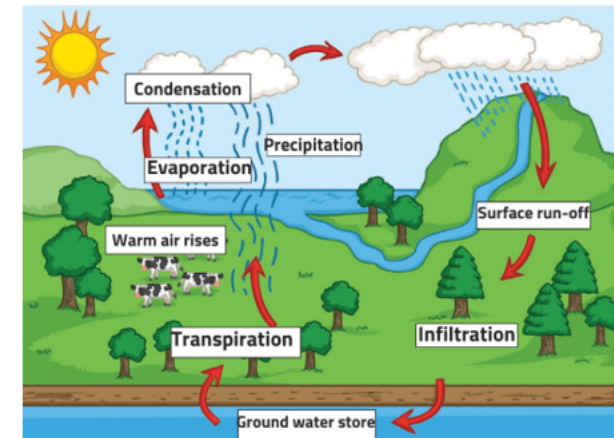


Year 5 Geography – Oceans and the Water Cycle

Key Vocabulary: water source, water cycle, ocean, river, stream, lake, precipitation, evaporation, condensation, tsunami, mountain, hot spring, tides, tidal wave, climate change, sea level

Core knowledge: By the end of the unit, children should:

- Be able to identify major water sources.
- Be able to name and locate major bodies of water on Earth.
- Understand and describe the water cycle.
- Know how the oceans and seas were formed.
- Know that rivers flow into oceans and make them salty.
- Know and describe some features of different oceans e.g., coral reefs, volcanoes, trenches.
- Know what a tsunami is, what can cause them and the warning signs.
- Be able to name and describe some of the life that lives in the deep oceans.
- Know why it is difficult to explore the deep oceans and how we do it.
- Know some of the effects of climate change upon the oceans.





Year 6 Geography – Class country study (Africa)

Key Vocabulary: physical geography, human geography, biomes, flora, fauna, topography, import, climate, climate change

Core knowledge: By the end of the unit, children should:

- Know location of class country.
- Know which countries border class country – or are nearby if it is an island.
- Know name and location of capital city and at least one other major city.
- Know which biomes are in class country. Know some of the flora and fauna that lives in one of the biomes.
- Know and represent on a map, key topographical features of class country.
- Know and describe how physical geography can influence land use.
- Know climate in class country.
- Know what climate change is. Describe some of the effects of climate change in class country/continent.



Year 6 Geography – Earthquakes and Mountains

Key Vocabulary: earthquake, tectonic plates, seismograph, Richter scale, mountain, altitude, peak/summit, ridge, glacier, moraine, crevasse, contour, fold mountain, fault block mountain, dome mountain

Core knowledge: By the end of the unit, children should:

- Know that the earth is made of layers and name the layers of the earth (revised from yr4)
- Know that tectonic plates move, and this can cause earthquakes (revised from year 4).
- Know where Earthquakes are most likely to occur.
- Know how we measure earthquakes.
- Know how we can protect ourselves from earthquakes.
- Know the tallest mountain on Earth is Everest in Nepal.
- Know Everest was first summited by Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay in 1953
- Name and describe different features of mountains: peak/summit, ridge, glacier, moraine, crevasse.
- Be able to name and locate major mountain ranges in the world.
- Name the four major peaks in the UK.
- Understand that contour lines on maps show the height of the land.
- Know how mountains were formed.
- Be able to name and describe different types of mountains.

