

Geography Subject Narrative

Geography overview

Our Geography lessons are well sequenced to provide a coherent subject scheme that develops children's geographical knowledge and skills. Geographical locations are not specified in the national curriculum, so they have been chosen to provide a broad and diverse understanding of the world. Where there are opportunities for making meaningful connections with other subjects, Geography lessons are sequenced accordingly. For example, children revisit the geography of settlements in the history project School Days after studying types of settlements in the geography project Bright Lights, Big City.

Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1, each autumn term begins with children learning essential geography knowledge and skills. In School Days, Year 1 children are taught the geographical knowledge and skills of maps and map making by using Ordnance Survey and aerial maps to locate their local community and school. They label human and physical features on a map of their school community as well as planning and drawing routes. In Coastline, Year 2, children have the opportunity to carry out a detailed study of coastal geography, learning about the features of the UK's coastline. The children study the traditional coastal town of Whitby and explore and identify its human and physical features by analysing a map with a key. Teaching these projects in Years 1 and 2 enables children to be introduced to, or revisit, critical geographical concepts, aspects, skills and knowledge. These projects prepare children for the study of more thematic geography projects in the following term. In the spring term of Year 1, children study the project Bright Lights, Big City. This project introduces children to the geography of urban environments and the physical and human features of the UK. The children learn what landmarks are and use maps to locate local landmarks. In contrast, in the spring term of Year 2, children use their previous learning to compare and contrast the UK with a European country in Land Ahoy! They also revisit and build upon their mapping skills.

Lower Key Stage 2

In Lower Key Stage 2, children have the opportunity to revisit and build upon their previous learning in the autumn term. In Year 3, during Rocks, Relics and Rumbles, children explore physical features and geographical phenomena, including earthquakes and volcanoes. They learn about the concept of plate tectonics and study maps to locate plate boundaries. They learn about the location of the Ring of Fire and are introduced to volcanoes. Year 4 children, during Pharaohs, have the opportunity to study Egypt and its landscape, surrounding countries and sea, climate and significant geographical features. Teaching these projects in Years 3 and 4 enables children to further develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of key geographical aspects and concepts. In contrast, in the spring term of Year 3, during Urban Pioneers, the children compare the urban characteristics of Berlin and Birmingham. In the spring term of Year 4, children carry out a detailed study of the physical features of mountains and rivers, which includes opportunities for in-depth fieldwork looking at a local river. They also locate world rivers and learn how rivers change the landscape through a range of physical processes.

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Upper Key Stage 2

In Upper Key Stage 2, children again revisit and build upon their previously taught knowledge and skills. In Year 5, during I am Warrior!, children learn about the significance and landmarks of Rome and compare and contrast features of the UK and Italy. During Maafa, Year 6 children have the opportunity to revisit their geographical understanding about the continent of Africa. They learn about countries, natural resources, populations, climates and physical features. Teaching these projects in Years 5 and 6 enables children to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of key geographical aspects and concepts and prepares them to study more thematic geography projects in the following term. In the summer term of Year 5, children study the seasonal project Sow, Grow and Farm, which explores farming, agriculture and rural land use. It also provides the opportunity to carry out fieldwork to a local allotment to understand the geographical feature that make it successful. In the spring term of Year 6, through the topic Our Changing World, children continue to build upon their mapping skills, through studying scaling, grid references and contour lines. They also learn about global trade and environmental issues such as climate change learning about the impact they have on the world.

Throughout the geography curriculum, there is complete coverage of all national curriculum programmes of study.