



## Geography – the new curriculum

### **Key stage 1**

Children will develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality. They will 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.

Children will be taught to:

#### **Locational knowledge**

- name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans (Y2)
- name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas (Y1)

#### **Place knowledge**

- understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom (Plaistow and the countryside in Y1), and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country (Plaistow and Ghana in Y2)

#### **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 (Y1)
- 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 (Y2)
  - key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop (Y1, Y2)

#### **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 (Y1, Y2)
- 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 (Y1, Y2)
- 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 (Y1, Y2)
- use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of Curwen Primary School and its grounds and the key human and physical features of the surrounding environment. (Y1)

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### Key stage 2

Children will 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. Children will develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

Children will 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 (Y6)
- 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 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)
- 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) (Y6)

#### 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, a region within North or South America and Russia (Y4, Y5, Y6)

#### 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 (Y3, Y4, Y6)
  - 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 (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)

#### Geographical skills and fieldwork

- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied (Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6)
- 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 (Y3, Y4, Y6)
- 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. (Y3, Y4)

## How can you help your child develop their geographical knowledge and understanding?

A five minute conversation a couple of times a week can open up a whole new world of thinking and enjoyment of geography. It isn't all about maps! Maybe you could try out one of the suggestions below.

- Learn a new country and capital city every week  
(<http://geography.about.com/od/countryinformation/a/capitals.htm>)
- Have a 5 minute chat about geography in the news, e.g. the location and effect of an earthquake, volcano or hurricane, or a local planning issue.
- Identify different types of homes as you walk home from school, e.g. flats, terraced houses, semi-detached homes.
- Look for different types of land use while you walk home, e.g. transport (roads, trains, aeroplanes, canals and rivers), homes, businesses, parks and recreational areas, derelict land.
- Ask your child a "What if...?" question, linking it to the effect on people, places and the environment - e.g. What if we didn't have any electricity? What if we no longer had mobile phones? What if water stopped flowing from our taps? What if all of the bees in the world died?

You could introduce your child to some of the geographical websites and online resources available that bring the world of Geography to their fingertips. Here are a few suggestions.

- Geography games and homework help are available from Ordnance Survey.  
<http://mapzone.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/>
- National Geographic Kids has a website packed full of fascinating facts, games and quizzes.  
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
- Maps at your fingertips!  
<http://www.worldatlas.com/>
- Guess where you are in the world using this amazing Geoguessr game!  
<http://geoguessr.com/>