Progression in Geography

Purpose of study

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, understanding and skills provide the frameworks and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

Aims

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

Develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes

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, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

Big Idea	Aspect	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Place	**World**	Begin to notice and talk about the different places around the world, including oceans and seas.	Name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans on a world map.	Name and locate seas surrounding the UK, as well as some seas and oceans around the world on a world map or globe.	Locate countries in Europe (including Russia) on a world map.	Locate the countries 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	*Identify the United Kingdom on a world map or globe.*	Name and locate the four countries of the UK and their capital cities on a map, atlas or globe.	Identify characteristics of the four countries and major cities of the UK.	Name, locate and describe some major counties and cities in the UK.	Name, locate and describe some major cities in the UK. Identify the topography of an area of the UK using contour lines on a map.	Describe the relative location of a place or geographical feature in the UK in relation to another place or geographical feature.	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	Describe how the weather, plants and animals of one place is different to another using simple geographical terms.	Locate hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the equator.	Locate the equator and the North and South Poles on a world map or globe.	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, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime (or Greenwich) Meridian and time zones (including day and night).
	Position		Use simple directional and positional language to give directions, describe the location of features and discuss where things are in relation to each other.	Use simple compass directions to describe the location of features or a route on a map.	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	Make and use simple maps in their play to represent places and journeys, real and imagined.	Draw or read a simple picture map.	Draw or read a range of simple maps that use symbols and a key.	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**	Describe how two places are the same or different using simple picture maps, photographs, data and other geographical resources.	Identify the similarities and differences between two places.	Describe and compare the human and physical similarities and differences between an area of the UK and a contrasting non-European country.	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**	Record observations about the way the local environment changes throughout each season.	Identify patterns in daily and seasonal weather.	Describe simple weather patterns of hot and cold places.	Explain how the weather affects the use of urban and rural environments.	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	*Describe how different types of weather affect the local environment.*	Describe in simple terms how a physical process has affected an area, place or human activity.	Describe, in simple terms, the effects of erosion.	Explain the physical processes that cause earthquakes and volcanic eruptions.	Use specific geographical vocabulary and diagrams to explain the water cycle.	Describe how soil fertility, drainage and climate affect agricultural land use.	Describe the physical processes, including weather, that affect two different locations.
Nature	**Physical Features**	*Name some common physical features in the locality and beyond.*	Use basic geographical vocabulary to identify and describe physical features, such as beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley and vegetation.	Describe the size, location and position of a physical feature, such as beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley and vegetation.	Describe the parts of a volcano or earthquake. Name and describe properties of the Earth's four layers.	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	*Describe ways to look after the immediate environment.*	Describe how pollution and litter affect the local environment and school grounds.	Describe ways to improve the local environment.	Identify the five major climate zones on Earth.	Describe altitudinal zonation on mountains.	Name and locate the world's biomes and climate zones and explain their common characteristics.	Explain how climate change affects climate zones and biomes across the world.
	Sustainability		Describe ways to protect natural environments, such as woodlands, hedgerows and meadows.	Describe how human behaviour can be beneficial to local and global	Describe the meaning of the term 'carbon footprint' and explain some	Describe how natural resources can be harnessed to create sustainable energy.	Identify and explain ways that people can improve the production	Explain the significance of human-environment relationships and how natural resource management can

Progression in Geography

				environments, now and in the longer term.	of the ways this can be reduced to protect the environment.		of products without compromising the needs of future generations.	protect natural resources to support life on Earth.
Humankind	**Human features and landmarks**	Name and talk about man-made features in the local environment, including shops, houses, streets and parks.	Name and describe the purpose of human features and landmarks.	Use geographical vocabulary to describe how and why people use a range of human features.	Describe the type, purpose and use 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 a contrasting environment to their own.	Identify the characteristics of a settlement.	Describe the size, location and function of a local industry.	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**	*Use photographs and maps to identify and describe human and physical features from their locality.*	Identify features and landmarks on an aerial photograph or plan perspective.	Study aerial photographs to describe the features and characteristics of an area of land.	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	*Begin to collect simple geographical data during fieldwork activities.*	Collect simple data during fieldwork activities.	Collect and organise simple data in charts and tables from primary sources (fieldwork and observation) and secondary sources (maps and books).	Analyse primary data, identifying any patterns observed.	Collect and analyse primary and secondary data, identifying and analysing patterns and suggesting reasons for them.	Summarise geographical data to draw conclusions.	Analyse and present increasingly complex data, comparing data from different sources and suggesting why data may vary.
	Fieldwork	Take photographs, draw simple picture maps and collect simple data during fieldwork activities.	Carry out fieldwork tasks to identify characteristics of the school grounds or locality.	Ask and answer simple geographical questions through observation or simple data collection during fieldwork activities.	Gather evidence to answer a geographical question or enquiry.	Investigate a geographical hypothesis using a range of fieldwork techniques.	Construct or carry out a geographical enquiry by gathering and analysing a range of sources.	Ask and answer geographical questions and hypotheses using a range of fieldwork and research techniques.
Materials	**Natural and man-made materials**	*Name some natural and man-made materials in the environment.*	Identify natural and man-made materials in the environment.	Describe the properties of natural and man-made materials and where they are found in the environment.	Name and describe the types, appearance and properties of rocks.	Describe and explain the transportation of materials by rivers. Describe the properties of different types of soil.	Explain how the topography and soil type affect the location of different agricultural regions.	Explain how the presence of ice makes the polar oceans different to other oceans on Earth.
Significance	**Significant places**	Discuss and describe places that are important to them.	Name important buildings and places and explain their importance.	Name, locate and explain the significance of a place.	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.	Identify some of the problems of farming in a developing country and report on ways in which these can be supported.	Name, locate and explain the distribution of significant industrial, farming and exporting regions around the world.
Change	**Geographical change**	Discuss how the local environment has changed over time using photographs and first-hand experiences.	Describe how a place or geographical feature has changed over time.	Describe how an environment has or might change over time.	Describe how a significant geographical activity has changed a landscape in the short or long term. Describe the activity of plate tectonics and how this has changed the Earth's surface over time (continental drift).	Explain how the physical processes of a river, sea or ocean have changed a landscape over time.	Describe how the characteristic of a settlement changes as it gets bigger (settlement hierarchy).	Present a detailed account of how an industry, including tourism, has changed a place or landscape over time.