Curriculum Geography Skills

Geography Skills – KS1 & KS2

- Vocabulary skills
- Enquiry skills
- Fieldwork skills
- Map/atlas work skills
- Recognising skills
- Describing skills

Year 1	
Ask simple geographical questions e.g. What is it like to live in this place?	 Vocabulary skills
Use locational and directional language (e.g. near and far; left and right) to describe the location of features and routes	 Vocabulary skills
Use simple observational skills to study the geography of the school and its grounds	Fieldwork skills
Use simple maps of the local area e.g. large scale, pictorial etc.	Map/atlas work skills
Make simple maps and plans e.g. pictorial place in a story	 Map/atlas work skills
Understand how some places are linked to other places e.g. roads, trains	Recognising skills
Describe seasonal weather changes	Describing skills
Name, describe and compare familiar places	Describing skills
Link their homes with other places in their local community	Recognising skills
Know about some present changes that are happening in the local environment e.g. at school	Recognising skills
Suggest ideas for improving the school environment	Enquiry skillsFieldwork skills

Year 2	
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	 Map/atlas work skills
Use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language e.g. near and far; left and right, to describe the location of features and routes on a map	Vocabulary skills
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	 Map/atlas work skills
Use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment	 Map/atlas work skills
Name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans	Recognising skills
Name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom	Recognising skills
Name, locate and identify characteristics of the seas surrounding the United Kingdom	Recognising skills
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	Recognising skills
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	 Vocabulary skills
Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop	 Vocabulary skills
Understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of	Describing skills

a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area	
in a contrasting non-European country	

Enquiry skills
Describing skills
Recognising skills
Vocabulary skills
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Fieldwork skills
Fieldwork skills
 Map/atlas work skills
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Map/atlas work skills

Identify where counties are within the UK and the key topographical features	 Map/atlas work skills
Name and locate the cities of the UK	Map/atlas work skills
Explain about weather conditions / patterns around the UK and parts of Europe	 Describing skills
Recognise there are similarities and differences between places	Recognising skills
Develop an awareness of how places relate each other	Recognising skills
Identify physical and human features of the locality	Recognising skills

Year 4	
Understand and use a widening range of geographical terms e.g. specific topic vocabulary - contour, height, valley, erosion, deposition, transportation, headland, volcanoes, earthquakes etc.	 Vocabulary skills
Measure straight line distances using the appropriate scale	 Map/atlas work skills
Explore features on OS maps using 6 figure grid references	 Map/atlas work skills
Draw accurate maps with more complex keys	Map/atlas work skills
Plan the steps and strategies for an enquiry	Enquiry skills
Recognise the different shapes of continents	Map/atlas work skills
Demonstrate knowledge of features about places around him/her and beyond the UK	 Map/atlas work skills
Identify where countries are within Europe; including Russia	 Map/atlas work skills
Recognise that people have differing quality of life living in different locations and environments	Recognising skills

Know how the locality is set within a wider geographical context	Enquiry skills
Describe human features of UK regions, cities and /or counties	Describing skills
Understand the effect of landscape features on the development of a locality	Enquiry skills
Describe how people have been affected by changes in the environment	Describing skills
Explain about key natural resources e.g. water in the locality	Enquiry skills
Explore weather patterns around parts of the world	 Enquiry skills
Know about the wider context of places - region, country	Recognising skills
Understand why there are similarities and differences between places	Describing skills

Year 5	
Understand and use a widening range of geographical terms e.g. specific topic vocabulary - climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle	 Vocabulary skills
Identify and describe the significance of the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones including day and night	Describing skills
Recognise the different shapes of countries	Recognising skills
Identify the physical characteristics and key topographical features of the countries within North America	Recognising skills
Know about the wider context of places e.g. county, region and country	Enquiry skills
Know and describe where a variety of places are in relation to physical and human features	Describing skills
Know location of: capital cities of countries of British Isles and U.K., seas around U.K., European	 Map/atlas work skills

Union countries with high populations and large areas and the largest cities in each continent	
Understand about world weather patterns around the World and relate these to climate zones	Recognising skills
Know how rivers erode, transport and deposit materials	Recognising skills
Know about the physical features of coasts and begin to understand erosion and deposition	Recognising skills
Understand how humans affect the environment over time	Enquiry skills
Know about changes to world environments over time	Enquiry skills
Understand why people seek to manage and sustain their environment	Enquiry skills
Compare the physical and human features of a region of the UK and a region in North America, identifying similarities and differences	Describing skills

Year 6	
Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied	 Map/atlas work skills
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 his/her knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world	 Map/atlas work skills
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	Fieldwork skills
Understand and use a widening range of geographical terms e.g. specific topic vocabulary - urban, rural, land use, sustainability, tributary, trade links etc.	 Vocabulary skills
Use maps, charts etc. to support decision making about the location of places e.g. new bypass	 Map/atlas work skills

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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	 Map/atlas work skills
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	 Map/atlas work skills
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)	 Map/atlas work skills
Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle	 Describing skills
Describe and understand key aspects of 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	 Describing skills
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, and a region within North or South America	Recognising skills