



Geographical Vocabulary Progression

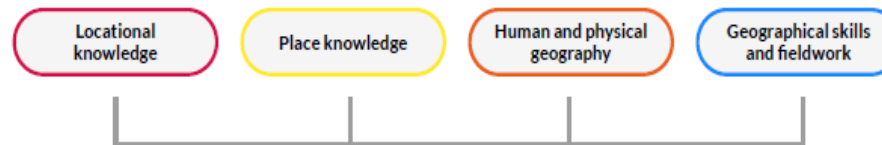
Our Geography Vocabulary Progression Document provides a structured approach to the development of geographical language across the curriculum. It identifies the key vocabulary that pupils need to learn, understand and apply at each stage of their geographical journey, ensuring that knowledge is built systematically and revisited over time.

The document is closely aligned to the strands of geographical learning embedded throughout our curriculum:

Locational Knowledge – introducing and developing subject-specific vocabulary related to continents, countries, regions, settlements and key geographical features.

Human and Physical Geography – expanding pupils' understanding of geographical concepts through precise terminology linked to natural processes, landscapes, environmental change and human activity.

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork – developing the technical language required for map reading, data collection, interpretation, analysis and geographical enquiry.



The progression document supports teachers in planning for the explicit teaching of vocabulary, ensuring that pupils encounter, revisit and apply key geographical terms in meaningful contexts. By building a rich and ambitious geographical vocabulary, pupils are better able to communicate their understanding, engage in geographical enquiry and develop as confident, articulate geographers. The document also helps ensure consistency across year groups, enabling pupils to deepen their understanding of geographical concepts and make connections as their knowledge grows.



Geography knowledge and skills progression



Locational Knowledge					
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Place	Africa	Italy	biomes	The Alps	Singapore
Continent	North America	climate zones	savannah	France	Hong Kong
Country	South America	polar	tropical rainforest	Monaco	Bangladesh
Europe	Antarctica	temperate	temperate deciduous	Switzerland	Greenland
England	Oceania	arid	forest	Liechtenstein	Iceland
Scotland	Equator	tropical	boreal forest	Austria	Canada
Wales	North Pole	Mediterranean	desert	Germany	Oman
Northern Ireland	South Pole	mountains	tundra	Slovenia	Bulgaria
United Kingdom (UK)	Kenya	Earth	Amazon rainforest	Great Barrier Reef	Port of Blyth
Asia	Atlantic Ocean	Mount Kilimanjaro	Brazil	Australia	Midland, Texas
China	Indian Ocean	The Andes	Manaus	Japan	Glasgow
Shanghai	Southern Ocean	The Himalayas	Côte d'Ivoire	South Korea	Liverpool
	Pacific Ocean	The Rockies	West Africa	USA	Bristol
	Arctic Ocean	The Alps	River Severn	Thailand	Newcastle
	London	Mount Etna	River Thames	India	Southampton
	Edinburgh	Lines of latitude	River Trent	Mojave Desert	Plymouth
	Cardiff	Lines of longitude	River Great Ouse	Death Valley	Leeds
	Belfast	Tropic of Capricorn	River Wye	Gobi Desert	
	Ben Nevis	Tropic of Cancer	River Mississippi	Oleshky Sands	
	Lake Windermere	Northern Hemisphere	River Amazon	Sahara Desert	
	Mount Snowdon	Southern Hemisphere	River Nile	Chihuahuan Desert	
	capital city	Arctic Circle	River Danube	Patagonian Desert	
	Weymouth	Antarctic Circle	River Yangtze	Antarctic Polar Desert	
	Jurassic Coast	South Georgia	River Murray	Great Victoria Desert	
	Pembrokeshire	Mount Erebus		Nevada	
	Orkney Islands	New Delhi		Utah	
	Giant's Causeway	settlement		Arizona	
	Flamborough Head	county		Atacama Desert	
	North Sea	region		Prime/Greenwich Meridian	
	English Channel	local			
	The Irish Sea	country border			



Geography knowledge and skills progression



Human and Physical Geography					
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Human: village town city port harbour skyscraper metro transport Physical: land lake river ocean sea weather season climate desert	Human: urban rural aquarium tourist Physical: pack ice ice sheet arid savannah vegetation grasslands rainforest polar mild temperate habitat arch bay coast mudflat pier cliff coastline island sand dunes stack	Human: geothermal energy man-made rock treaty linear nucleated dispersed recreational land agricultural land residential land commercial land place of worship monument memorial facilities Physical: inner core outer core mantle crust tectonic plates plate boundary volcano shield composite active dormant extinct mountain fault block fold volcanic magma magma chamber vent	Human: indigenous peoples deforestation community logging mining food miles import export distribution produce waste consume fertilisers pesticides greengrocer butcher pollution trade product cooperative responsible trade seasonal food air freight grant packaging bakery food bank allotment irrigation leisure supply Physical: vegetation belts forest floor	Human: population coral bleaching microplastics acidification overfishing Marine Protected Area single-use plastic re-purpose plastic pollution disposable policy biodegradable airstrip national park nature reserve tourist attraction military ranching agriculture desertification flash flood Physical: mountain range temperate deciduous forest coniferous trees deciduous trees ocean current buffer coral reef marine erosion decompose rainfall barren	Human: densely populated sparsely populated population density population distribution birth rate death rate natural increase migration refugee push factors pull factors voluntary involuntary air pollution noise pollution energy source hydropower wind power solar power nuclear power biofuel non-renewable dam replenished consumption producer headquarters offshore onshore



Geography knowledge and skills progression



		pyroclastic flow fertile soil minerals volcanic springs earthquake tsunami fault line epicentre seismic wave focus rock natural igneous sedimentary metamorphic ice shelf drifting ice iceberg wilderness	understorey layer canopy layer emergent layer drought buttress roots lianas condensation evaporation groundwater percolation precipitation transpiration water cycle delta estuary floodplain meander oxbow lake river mouth source tributary valley waterfall flooding	sparse mesa mushroom rock natural arch salt flat	Physical: land mass coal natural gas crude oil emissions ocean tide regenerate fossil fuel
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Geography knowledge and skills progression



Geographical Skills and Fieldwork					
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Geographical: aerial view aerial photograph distance location locate near far left right north east south west features direction physical feature human feature similar different Mapping: map globe atlas symbol key Fieldwork: survey questionnaire compass rain gauge thermometer temperature weather vane	Geographical: Landmark Mapping: sketch map scale OS map Fieldwork: sample tally chart pictogram bar chart data collection	Geographical: negative/positive effects climate change adaptation tourism explorer cross-section similarity/difference land use Mapping: index hemisphere scale bar mapping tilt four-figure grid reference plot eight points of the compass route Fieldwork: expedition magnetic/magnetic field research intention destination evaluate compare improvement	Geographical: benefit/advantage drawback/disadvantage process approximate greenhouse gas sustainability carbon footprint global warming renewable energy Mapping: represent grid square Fieldwork: investigate interview method risk enquiry data analyse present quantitative/qualitative data summarise interpret quote source sample size reliability limitations open-ended/closed questions Likert scale	Geographical: natural disaster threat species dependent geology ecology ecosystem atmosphere human footprint environment comparison Mapping: land height sea level thematic map aerial map digital map time zone Fieldwork: fieldwork evidence	Geographical: impact landscape urban planner Mapping: six-figure grid references contour lines Fieldwork: digital technologies conclusion cartogram Geographic Information System (GIS) pie chart line graph live data consideration annotate justify issue viewpoint data collection methods subjective audience recommendation