

Geography Knowledge Progression

Big Idea	Aspect	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Humankind	Human features and landmarks	World Human features of the immediate environment include the school, the playground, streets and houses.	World Human features are man-made and include houses, shops, buildings, offices, parks, streets and places of worship.	Human features are manmade and include factories, farms, houses, offices, ports, harbours and shops. Landmarks and monuments are features of a landscape, city or town that are easily seen and recognised from a distance. They also help someone to establish and describe a location.	Human features are manmade and include castles, towers, schools, hospitals, bridges, shops, tunnels, monuments, airports and roads. People use human features in different ways. For example, an airport can be used for work or leisure and a harbour can be used for industry or travel.	Services include banks, post offices, hospitals, public transport and garages. Land use types include leisure, housing, industry, transport and agriculture.	Human features can be interconnected by function, type and transport links.	Transport networks can be tangible, such as rails, roads or canals, or intangible, such as air and sea corridors. These networks link places together and allow for the movement of people and goods. Transport networks are usually built where there is a high demand for the movement of people or goods. They run between places where journeys start or finish, such as airports, bus stations, ferry terminals or railway stations.	The distribution of and access to natural resources, cultural influences and economic activity are significant factors in community life in a settlement.
	Settlements and land use			A settlement is a place where people live and work and can be big or small, depending on how many people live there. Towns and cities are urban settlements. Features of towns and cities include homes, shops, roads and offices.	Industries are businesses that make things, sell things and help people live their everyday lives. Land can be used for recreational, transport, agricultural, residential and commercial purposes, or a mixture of these.	Different types of settlement include rural, urban, hamlet, town, village, city and suburban areas. A city is a large settlement where many people live and work. Residential areas surrounding cities are called suburbs.	Land uses include agricultural, recreational, housing and industry. Water systems are used for transport, industry, leisure and power.	Agricultural land use in the UK can be divided into three main types, arable (growing crops), pastoral (livestock) and mixed (arable and pastoral). An allotment is a small piece of land used to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. A wide variety of crops are farmed in the UK, such as wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, other vegetables, fruits and oilseed rape. A wide variety of livestock are reared on farms in the UK, such as sheep, dairy cattle, beef	Natural resources include food, minerals (aluminium, sandstone and oil) energy sources (water, coal and gas) and water.

Geography Knowledge Progression

Big Idea	Aspect	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Processes	Climate and weather	World Changes in the local environment, such as leaves changing colour or the number of people outside, occur with the passing of the seasons.	World There are four seasons in the United Kingdom: spring, summer, autumn and winter. Each season has typical weather patterns.	There are four seasons in the UK: spring, summer, autumn and winter. Each season has typical weather patterns. Types of weather include sun, rain, wind, snow, fog, hail and sleet. In the United Kingdom, the length of the day varies depending on the season. In winter, the days are shorter. In summer, the days are longer. Symbols are used to show different types of weather.	A weather pattern is a type of weather that is repeated.	Excessive precipitation includes thunderstorms, downbursts, tornadoes, waterspouts, tropical cyclones, extratropical cyclones, blizzards and ice storms.		cattle, poultry and pigs. Changes to the weather and climate (temperature, weather patterns and precipitation) can affect land use. Farmers living in different countries adapt their farming practices to suit their local climate and landscape.	Climate and extreme weather can affect the size and nature of settlements, shelters and buildings, diet, lifestyle (settled or nomadic), jobs, clothing, transport and transportation links and the availability of natural resources.
	Physical processes	World Wind and rain can affect the local environment in different ways. The wind can blow trees down and heavy rain can cause flooding.	All types of weather can affect the environment and how we use it. For example, on sunny days, people might go to the park or the coastline. On cold, icy days, roads and rivers can be frozen.	Weather is a physical process.	Erosion is a physical process that involves the weathering and movement of natural materials, such as rock, sand and soil. Erosion is caused by wind and water, including waves, floods, rivers and rainfall.	Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes happen when two tectonic plates push into each other, pull apart from one another or slide alongside each other. The centre of an earthquake is called the epicentre.	Water cannot be made. It is constantly recycled through a process called the water cycle. The four stages of the water cycle are evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. During the water cycle, water changes state due to heating and cooling.	Soil fertility, drainage and climate influence the placement and success of agricultural land.	Physical processes that can affect a landscape include erosion by wind, water or ice; the deposition of stone and silt by water and ice; land movement, such as landslides and tectonic activity, such as earthquakes or volcanic eruptions.
Investigation	Geographical resources		World Maps and photographs can be used to show key features of the local environment.	An aerial photograph or plan perspective shows an area of land from above.		Maps, globes and digital mapping tools can help to locate and describe significant geographical features.	An atlas is a collection of maps and information that shows geographical features, topography, boundaries, climatic, social and economic statistics of an area.	Aerial photography is used in cartography, land-use planning and environmental studies. It can be used alongside maps to find out detailed information about a place, or places.	Satellite images are photographs of Earth taken by imaging satellites.

Geography Knowledge Progression

Big Idea	Aspect	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Data analysis		World Geographical information can be collected by using simple tally charts and pictograms.	Data is information that can be collected and used to answer a geographical question.	Data can be recorded in different ways, including tables, charts and pictograms.	Primary data includes information gathered by observation and investigation.	Secondary data includes information gathered by geographical reports, surveys, maps, research, books and the internet.	Geographical data, such as demographics or economic statistics, can be used as evidence to support conclusions.	Data helps us to understand patterns and trends but sometimes there can be variations due to numerous factors (human error, incorrect equipment, different time frames, different sites, environmental conditions and unexplained anomalies).
	Fieldwork		World Fieldwork includes going on walks and visits to collect information about the environment.	Fieldwork includes going out in the environment to look, ask questions, take photographs, take measurements and collect samples.	Fieldwork can help to answer questions about the local environment and can include observing or measuring, identifying or classifying and recording.	The term geographical evidence relates to facts, information and numerical data.	Fieldwork techniques, such as sketch maps, data collection and digital technologies, can provide evidence to support and answer a geographical hypothesis.	A geographical enquiry can help us to understand the physical geography (rivers, coasts, weather and rocks) or human geography (population changes, migration, land use, changes to inner city, urbanisation, developments and tourism) of an area and the impacts on the surrounding environment.	Representing, analysing, concluding, communicating, reflecting and responding are helpful strategies to answer geographical questions.
Materials	Natural and man-made materials	World Some materials are natural and others are man-made.	World Natural materials include wood, stone and sand. Man-made materials include metal, plastic, glass and fabric. Materials can be used to build and make things.	A material is something used to build or make something else. Natural materials are dug out of the ground, grown or taken from a living thing. Manmade materials are often made from natural materials but have been changed to have different properties.	Materials found in the environment can be natural (rock, stone, water, sand, soil, water and clay) and man-made (brick, glass, plastic and concrete). Natural and man-made materials are used to make human features.	There are three main types of rock found in the Earth's crust. They are sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic. Sedimentary rocks are made from sediment that settles in water and becomes squashed over a long time to form rock. They are often soft, permeable, have layers and may	Rivers transport materials in four ways. Solution is when minerals are dissolved and carried in the water. Suspension is when fine, light material is carried. Saltation is when small pebbles and stones are carried along the riverbed. Traction is when large boulders and rocks are rolled along the	The topography of an area intended for agricultural purposes is an important consideration. In particular, the topographical slope or gradient plays a large part in controlling hydrology (water) and potential soil erosion.	The polar oceans are significantly colder than other world oceans. This influences the presence of sea ice, glaciers and icebergs.

Geography Knowledge Progression

Big Idea	Aspect	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
						contain fossils. Igneous rocks are made from cooled magma or lava. They are usually hard, shiny and contain visible crystals. Metamorphic rocks are formed when existing rocks are heated by the magma under the Earth's crust or squashed by the movement of the Earth's tectonic plates. They are usually very hard and often shiny.	riverbed. Different types of soil include clay, sandy, silty and loamy		
Nature	Physical features	World Common physical features include fields, rivers and hills.	World Large physical features include rivers, mountains, oceans and the coastline.	Physical features are naturally-created features of the Earth.	A physical feature is one that forms naturally, and can change over time due to weather and other forces.	A volcano is an opening in the Earth's surface from which gas, hot magma and ash can escape. They are usually found at meeting points of the Earth's tectonic plates. When a volcano erupts, liquid magma collects in an underground magma chamber. The magma pushes through a crack called a vent and bursts out onto the Earth's surface. Lava, hot ash and mudslides from volcanic eruptions can cause severe damage. The Earth is made of four different layers. The inner core is made mostly of hot, solid iron and nickel, and the outer core is	Mountains form over millions of years. They are made when the Earth's tectonic plates push together or move apart. Mountains are also formed when magma underneath the Earth's crust pushes large areas of land upwards. There are five types of mountain: fold, fault-block, volcanic, dome and plateau.	North America is broadly categorised into six major biomes: tundra, coniferous forest, grasslands (prairie), deciduous forest, desert and tropical rainforest. South America has a vast variety of biomes, including desert, alpine, rainforest and grasslands.	The Arctic is a sea of ice surrounded by land and located at the highest latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere. It extends over the countries that border the Arctic Ocean, including Canada, the USA, Denmark, Russia, Norway and Iceland. Antarctica is a continent located in the Southern Hemisphere. Antarctica does not belong to any country. Physical features typical of the Arctic and Antarctic regions include glaciers, icebergs, ice caps, ice sheets, ice shelves and sea ice.

Geography Knowledge Progression

Big Idea	Aspect	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
						made of liquid iron and nickel. The mantle is made of solid rock and molten rock called magma. The crust is a thin layer of solid rock that is broken into large pieces called tectonic plates. These pieces move very slowly across the mantle			
	Environment	World It is everybody's responsibility to look after the environment.	World Litter has a harmful effect on the areas where we live, work and play. People need to put their rubbish into the bin and not throw it on the ground.	Litter and pollution have a harmful effect on the areas where we live, work and play.		The Earth has five climate zones: desert, Mediterranean, polar, temperate and tropical.	Altitudinal zonation describes the different climates and types of wildlife at different altitudes on mountains. Examples include forests that grow at low altitudes and support a wide variety of plants and animals, tundra that is found at higher altitudes and supports plants and animals that are adapted to harsher environments, and the summits of mountains, which are usually covered in ice and snow and don't support any life.	The Earth has five climate zones: desert, Mediterranean, polar, temperate and tropical. Mountains have variable climates depending on altitude. A biome is a large ecological area on the Earth's surface, such as desert, forest, grassland, tundra and aquatic. Biomes are often defined by a range of factors, such as temperature, climate, relief, geology, soils and vegetation.	Climate change is the long-term change in expected patterns of weather that contributes to the melting of polar ice caps, rising sea levels and extreme weather. Climate change is caused by global warming. Human activity, such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, habitat destruction, overpopulation and rearing livestock, all contribute to global warming.
	Sustainability			Natural environments can be affected by the actions of humans, including cutting down trees or dropping litter. Humans can protect the environment by choosing to preserve woodlands and hedgerows, recycling	Conservation is the protection of living things and the environment from damage caused by human activity. Conservation activities include reducing, reusing and recycling, composting, saving water and	A person's carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere from their activities. People can reduce their carbon footprint by driving less, eating less meat, flying less	The environment produces natural resources. Humans use some natural resources to make energy. Some natural resources cannot be replaced, like coal or oil. They are non-renewable. Some, like wind or flowing water,	Industries can make their manufacturing processes more sustainable and better for the environment by using renewable energy sources, reducing, reusing and recycling and sharing resources.	Natural resource management (NRM) manages natural resources, including water, land, soil, plants and animals. It recognises that people rely on healthy landscapes to live and aims to create sustainable ways of

Geography Knowledge Progression

Big Idea	Aspect	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
				where possible and disposing of waste carefully.	saving energy. Conservation activities protect the environment for people in the future.	and wasting less food and products.	are renewable sources of energy.		using land now and in the future.
Place and space	World	The world has lots of different places.	Globes and maps can show us the location of different places around the world.	A continent is a large area of land. The world's seven continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Oceania, Europe, North America and South America. The five oceans are the Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean and Southern Ocean.	An ocean is a large sea. There are five oceans on our planet called the Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific and Southern Oceans. Seas include the Black, Red and Caspian Seas. The United Kingdom is an island surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, English Channel, Irish Sea and North Sea. The world's seven continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Oceania, Europe, North America and South America.	Countries in Europe include the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, Italy and Belgium. Russia is part of both Europe and Asia.	The North American continent includes the countries of the USA, Canada and Mexico as well as the Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. The South American continent includes the countries of Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia and Paraguay.	Major cities around the world include London in the UK, New York in the USA, Shanghai in China, Istanbul in Turkey, Moscow in Russia, Manila in the Philippines, Lagos in Nigeria, Nairobi in Kenya, Baghdad in Iraq, Damascus in Syria and Mecca in Saudi Arabia.	Geographical interconnections are the ways in which people and things are connected
	UK			The United Kingdom (UK) is a union of four countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. A capital city is a city that is home to the government and ruler of a country. London is the capital city of England, Belfast is the capital city of Northern Ireland, Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland and Cardiff is the capital city of Wales. The countries of the United Kingdom are	The characteristics of countries include their size, landscape, capital city, language, currency and key landmarks. England is the biggest country in the United Kingdom.	The optional Counties of the United Kingdom include Derbyshire, Sussex and Warwickshire. Major cities of the United Kingdom include London, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Manchester and Newcastle.	Significant rivers of the UK include the Thames, Severn, Trent, Dee, Tyne, Ouse and Lagan. Significant mountains and mountain ranges include Ben Nevis, Snowdon, Helvellyn, Pen y Fan, the Scottish Highlands and the Pennines. Topography is the arrangement of the natural and artificial physical features of an area.	Relative location is where something is found in comparison with other features.	A geographical pattern is the arrangement of objects on the Earth's surface in relation to one another.

Geography Knowledge Progression

Big Idea	Aspect	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	Location			made up of cities, towns and villages. Warmer areas of the world are closer to the equator and colder areas of the world are further from the equator. The equator is an imaginary line that divides the Earth into two parts: the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Continents have different climates depending on where they are in the world. The climate of a place can be identified by the types of weather, plants and animals found there.	The equator is an imaginary line that divides the world into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The North Pole is the most northern point on Earth. The South Pole is the most southern point on Earth.	Latitude is the distance north or south of the equator and longitude is the distance east or west of the Prime Meridian.	The Tropic of Cancer is 23 degrees north of the equator and Tropic of Capricorn is 23 degrees south of the equator.	The Prime (or Greenwich) Meridian is an imaginary line that divides the Earth into eastern and western hemispheres. The time at Greenwich is called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Each time zone that is 15 degrees to the west of Greenwich is another hour earlier than GMT. Each time zone 15 degrees to the east is another hour later.	The Northern Hemisphere is the part of Earth that is to the north of the equator. The Southern Hemisphere is the part of Earth that is to the south of the equator. The Prime Meridian is the imaginary line from the North Pole to the South Pole that passes through Greenwich in England and marks 0° longitude, from which all other longitudes are measured.
	Position	Positional language is used to describe where things are in relation to one another. Positional language includes in, on, next to, behind and in front of.	Positional language is used to describe where things are in relation to one another. Positional language includes in, on, next to, behind, in front of, in between, above, below and underneath.	Maths optional Positional language includes behind, next to and in front of. Directional language includes left, right, straight ahead and turn.	The four cardinal points on a compass are north, south, east and west. A route is a set of directions that can be used to get from one place to another.	The eight points of a compass are north, south, east, west, north-east, north-west, south-east and south-west.	The four cardinal directions are north (N), east (E), south (S) and west (W), which are at 90° angles on the compass rose. The four intercardinal (or ordinal) directions are halfway between the cardinal directions: north-east (NE), south-east (SE), south-west (SW) and north-west (NW).	Compass points can be used to describe the relationship of features to each other, or to describe the direction of travel. Accurate grid references identify the position of key physical and human features.	Invisible lines of latitude run horizontally around the Earth and show the northerly or southerly position of a geographical area. Invisible lines of longitude run vertically from the North to the South Pole and show the westerly or easterly position of a geographical area.
	Maps		A map is a picture or drawing of an area of land or sea.	A map is a picture or drawing of an area of land or sea that can show human and physical features. A key is used to show	A map is a picture or drawing of an area of land or sea that can show human and physical features. Maps use symbols	A four-figure grid reference contains four numbers. The first two numbers are called the easting and are found along the	A six-figure grid reference contains six numbers and is more precise than a four figure grid reference. The first three figures	The geographical term 'relief' describes the difference between the highest and lowest elevations of an area. Relief maps	A geographical area can be understood by using grid references and lines of latitude and longitude to identify position,

Geography Knowledge Progression

Big Idea	Aspect	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
				features on a map. A map has symbols to show where things are located.	and a key. A key is the information needed to read a map and a symbol is a picture or icon used to show a geographical feature.	top and bottom of a map. The second two numbers are called the northing and are found up both sides of a map. Fourfigure grid references give specific information about locations on a map.	are called the easting and are found along the top and bottom of a map. The second three figures are called the northing and are found up both sides of a map. Six figure grid references give detailed information about locations on a map.	show the contours of land based on shape and height. Contour lines show the elevation of the land, joining places of the same height above sea level. They are usually an orange or brown colour. Contour lines that are close together represent ground that is steep. Contour lines that are far apart show ground that is gently sloping or flat.	contour lines to identify height above sea level and map symbols to identify physical and human features.
Comparison	Compare and contrast		World Places can have different climates, weather, food, religions, culture, wildlife, transport and amenities.	Places can be compared by size, amenities, transport, location, weather and climate.	A non-European country is a country outside the continent of Europe. For example, the USA, Australia, China and Egypt are non-European countries. European countries include the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Spain.	Geographical features created by nature are called physical features. Physical features include beaches, cliffs and mountains. Geographical features created by humans are called human features. Human features include houses, factories and train stations.	A physical feature is one that forms naturally and can change over time due to physical processes, such as erosion and weathering. Physical features include rivers, forests, hills, mountains and cliffs. An aspect of a physical feature might be the type of mountain, such as dome or volcanic, or the type of forest, such as coniferous or broad-leaved.	The seven continents (Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Oceania, Europe, North America and South America) vary in size, shape, location, population and climate.	Climate is the long-term pattern of weather conditions found in a particular place. Climates can be compared by looking at factors including maximum and minimum levels of precipitation and average monthly temperatures.
Significance	Significant places		A place can be important because of its location, use buildings or landscape.	A place can be important because of its location, buildings, landscape, community, culture and history. Important buildings can include schools, places of worship and buildings that provide	A significant place is a location that is important to a community or society. Places can also be significant because of religious or historic events that may have happened in the past near the location.	Significant volcanoes include Mount Vesuvius in Italy, Laki in Iceland and Krakatoa in Indonesia. Significant earthquake prone areas include the San Andreas Fault in North America and the Ring of Fire, which	Significant mountain ranges include the Himalayas, Urals, Andes, Alps, Atlas, Pyrenees, Apennines, Balkans and Sierra Nevada. Significant rivers include the Mississippi, Nile, Thames, Amazon,	Farming challenges for developing countries include poor soil, disease, drought and lack of markets. Education, fair trade and technology are ways in which these challenges can be reduced.	North America, Europe and East Asia are the main industrial regions of the world due to a range of factors (access to raw materials, transportation, fresh water, power and labour supply).

Geography Knowledge Progression

Big Idea	Aspect	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
				a service to the community, such as shops and libraries. Some buildings are important because they tell us something about the past.	Significant places can also include monuments, such as the Eiffel Tower, or natural landscapes, such as the Great Barrier Reef.	runs around the edge of the Pacific Ocean and is where many plate boundaries in the Earth's crust converge. Over three quarters of the world's earthquakes and volcanic eruptions happen along the Ring of Fire.	Volga, Zambezi, Mekong, Ganges, Danube and Yangtze.		
Change	Geographical change			Geographical features can change over time.	An environment or place can change over time due to a geographical process, such as erosion, or human activity, such as housebuilding.	Significant geographical activity includes earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. These are known as natural disasters because they are created by nature, affect many people and cause widespread damage. The crust of the Earth is divided into tectonic plates that move. The place where plates meet is called a plate boundary. Plates can push into each other, pull apart or slide against each other. These movements can create mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes.	Rivers, seas and oceans can transform a landscape through erosion, deposition and transportation.	Settlements come in many different sizes and these can be ranked according to their population and the level of services available. A settlement hierarchy includes hamlet, village, town, city and large city.	Tourism is an industry that involves people travelling for recreation and leisure. It has had an environmental, social and economic impact on many regions and countries.