



Year 1: Geography

Block 1 – Spatial Sense

Overview of unit:	Substantive Knowledge:	Disciplinary Knowledge:
<p>This sequence introduces children to key geographical concepts and skills, starting with the idea of aerial perspective and how maps represent views from above. They will explore location vocabulary and practice describing positions. Children learn that maps provide information about places and use symbols to represent features, developing an understanding of how maps function. Directional skills are introduced through practical activities, focusing on left, right, and compass points, with opportunities to revisit and strengthen these concepts. Finally, children will create their own maps, using a checklist of essential features such as titles, labels, symbols, and keys, while exploring different types of maps to identify common elements.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To draw a map. • To know that maps give us information about places. • To understand maps are drawn from an aerial view 	<p>☑ Understanding Perspective: Developing the concept of aerial perspective and how our view of objects changes based on our vantage point, a foundational skill for interpreting maps.</p> <p>Map Reading and Representation: Learning how maps provide information about places, including the use of symbols, keys, and simplified aerial views to represent locations.</p> <p>☑ Spatial Awareness: Practicing the vocabulary of location and describing positions relative to objects, enhancing spatial reasoning.</p> <p>☑ Directional Skills: Identifying and applying directions (left, right, and compass points) to navigate and orient within physical spaces and maps.</p> <p>☑ Map Creation: Designing maps with essential features, such as titles, labels, symbols, and keys, to represent geographical information effectively.</p> <p>☑ Critical Analysis: Investigating and analysing different types of maps to identify common features and purposes, developing a deeper understanding of cartographic conventions.</p>

Sequence: In Year 1, children are introduced to aerial views, maps, symbols, keys, and the four-point compass, using positional language and simple routes. This foundational knowledge progresses in later years: Year 2 focuses on school maps and compass skills; Year 3 adds grid references and eight-point compasses; Year 4 introduces latitude, longitude, and map scales; Year 5 explores the Prime Meridian; and Year 6 consolidates global mapping concepts

Vocabulary:

Aerial view, map, location, compass, key, symbol, navigate

Block 2 – The UK

Overview of unit:	Substantive Knowledge:	Disciplinary Knowledge:
<p>In this unit, children will learn the names, locations, and characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom. They will explore the Union Jack, physical and human features of the UK, and use maps to identify key landmarks like coastlines, rivers, and cities. Children will also study seasonal and daily weather patterns. Using maps and atlases, they will locate the UK and its countries, building foundational skills for future geography</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand that the United Kingdom is a union of four countries. • To know Scotland is one of the countries in the United Kingdom. • To know Wales is one of the countries in the United Kingdom. • To recognise Northern Ireland as one of the countries in the United Kingdom. • To recognise England as the country in which we live. 	<p>☑ Map Skills: Using maps and atlases to locate the countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom, and identifying physical features like coastlines, hills, rivers, and lakes.</p> <p>☑ Geographical Terminology: Understanding and using terms related to physical and human geography, such as coastlines, towns, cities, and weather patterns.</p> <p>☑ Comparative Analysis: Identifying and comparing seasonal and daily weather patterns across different parts of the UK.</p> <p>☑ Understanding Place: Developing an understanding of the geographical location and characteristics of places within the UK, and how these places are connected.</p> <p>☑ Flag and Symbol Recognition: Recognising the Union Jack as the flag of the United Kingdom and understanding its historical and</p>

<p>lessons. This unit sets the stage for more detailed studies of the UK in Year 2, helping children understand place and connections between locations.</p>		<p>symbolic significance. Spatial Awareness: Developing the ability to recognise and identify locations on maps and atlases, and using this knowledge to explore the UK's geography</p>
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Sequence: In Year 1, children learn about the UK's countries, capital cities, the Union Jack, and basic map skills, exploring physical and human features and weather patterns. This knowledge is built on in Year 2 with a more detailed study of the UK. In Year 3, children learn about the eight-point compass and grid references, while Year 4 introduces latitude, longitude, and connections with Europe. Year 5 focuses on the Prime Meridian, and in Year 6, students expand their global understanding through the study of coordinates, the Tropics, and polar regions.

Vocabulary: union, kingdom, mountain, coast, valley, Gaelic, seasons

Block 3 – Seven Continents

Overview of unit:	Substantive Knowledge:	Disciplinary Knowledge:
<p>In this unit, children begin by learning the names and locations of the seven continents, building on prior knowledge from EYFS and Year 1. They then explore the oceans and their role in sustaining life, introducing the concept of interconnection and human impact. The lesson on poles and the equator deepens their geographical understanding, with a focus on key geographical concepts to be revisited in later years. The concept of diversity is introduced through grasslands, rainforests, and deserts, with the Rice Terraces as an example of how humans impact the land. The unit concludes with a closer look at Europe, laying the foundation for future study of Northern, Mediterranean, and Eastern Europe in KS2. Children will showcase their knowledge by labelling a world map and reflecting on what a geographer might say about the world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are seven continents on Earth: Asia, Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Antarctica. • We have five oceans on Earth; The Pacific Ocean, The Atlantic Ocean, The Indian Ocean, The Southern Ocean and the Arctic Ocean. • The North Pole is located at the most northern point on Earth and the South Pole is located at the most southern point on Earth. • The Equator is an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth. • Deserts, grassland and rainforest can be found in some continents around the world. • We live in the continent of Europe. 	<p>Map and Globe Skills: Locating and naming continents and oceans on world maps and globes, building foundational mapping skills.</p> <p>Interpreting Physical Geography: Understanding the role of oceans, equators, and poles in sustaining life and their geographical significance.</p> <p>Concept of Interconnection: Exploring the interrelationship between human activity, natural features (like oceans and land), and the environment.</p> <p>Geographical Diversity: Recognizing and describing different environments, such as grasslands, rainforests, and deserts, and understanding their global importance.</p> <p>Critical Thinking: Analysing how people impact and modify their environment, using the example of the Rice Terraces.</p> <p>Reflective Thinking: Developing the ability to reflect on geographical knowledge and consider the perspective of a geographer, understanding the world from a geographical lens.</p>

Sequence: This unit expands children's understanding from their local area to the seven continents and five oceans, using globes to explore Earth's geography. They learn about the poles, equator, climate, and the concept of interconnection, such as human impact on oceans and the rice terraces in the Philippines. This concept is further developed in later years (e.g., Year 2 Northern Europe, Year 4 London, Year 6 North America). The unit encourages thinking like a geographer, exploring questions and methods that will be revisited throughout the geography curriculum.

Vocabulary: Earth, continent, ocean, globe, North Pole, South Pole, equator