



Geography

Substantive Knowledge Progression Map

Term	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Autumn		What is it like here?	Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place?	Why do people live near volcanoes?	Why are rainforests important to us?	What is life like in the Alps?	Why do some natural hazards become disasters?
Spring		What is the weather like in the UK?	Why is our world wonderful?	Who lives in Antarctica?	Where does our food come from?	Why do oceans matter?	Where does our energy come from?
Summer		What is it like to live in Shanghai?	What is it like to live by the coast?	Are all settlements the same?	What are rivers and how are they used?	Would you like to live in the desert?	How do location and climate shape landscapes and lives across the Americas?



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1. Locational knowledge and spatial framework

Pogression focus	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Named places from local to global		Chambersbury Primary School is in Hemel Hempstead, a town in England. The United Kingdom is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their capital cities are London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast. The UK is in Europe. China is in Asia and Shanghai is a city in eastern China.	The seven contients are Europe, Africa, Asia, North America, South America, Oceania and Antarctica. The five oceans are the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern and Arctic Oceans. The Arctic is the region around the North Pole. Antarctica is the continent around the South Pole. Nairobi is the capital of Kenya in East Africa. Swanage is a coastal town in southern England.	Mount Etna is on Sicily, an Italian island in southern Europe. Catania is a nearby city. Antarctica surrounds the South Pole and is encircled by the Southern Ocean. India is a country in Asia. New Delhi is its capital city.	The Amazon rainforest is in South America and its largest part is in Brazil. Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire are in West Africa and are major cocoa producing countries. The River Severn is the longest river in the UK. The Nile is in Africa, the Amazon is in South America, the Mississippi in North America and the Yangtze in Asia.	The Alps cross eight European countries: Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Slovenia and Switzerland. The Great Barrier Reef lies off the north-east coast of Australia. The Mojave Desert lies mainly in California and Nevada in the south-western USA.	North and South America are separated continents joined by the Isthmus of Panama. Central America is part of North America and the Caribbean is a region of islands and surrounding seas. New Orleans and Texas are in the southern USA. Sumatra is in Indonesia, Thailand borders the Indian Ocean and Montserrat is in the Caribbean.
Position, direction and global reference lines		Near, far, left, right and next to describe where one feature is in relation to another. North, south, east and west are directions. A north arrow shows which way is north on a map. Places fit within larger places. For example, Shanghai is in China, China is in Asia and Asia is part of the world.	The Equator is an imaginary line around the middle of Earth, halfway between the North and South Poles. Places near the Equator are generally warmer than places near the poles. The Atlantic Ocean is west of the UK, the North Sea is east, the Irish Sea is west of Great Britain and the English Channel is south.	The Equator divides Earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Latitude shows distance north or south of the Equator. Longitude shows distance east or west of the Prime Meridian. Many volcanoes occur near tectonic plate boundaries, including around the Pacific Ring of Fire.	The Equator is at 0° latitude. Most tropical rainforests lie near it, between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. Rivers and supply chains connect places across local, national and international scales.	The Alps are in the Northern and Eastern Hemispheres. Altitude means height above sea level. Many hot deserts lie near the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. Different longitudes use different time zones. Ocean currents move heat between warmer and cooler parts of the world.	North America is in the Northern Hemisphere. South America crosses the Equator but lies mainly in the Southern Hemisphere. Latitude creates broad temperature patterns, but altitude, relief, distance from the sea, ocean currents and prevailing winds also affect climate. Edmonton, Manaus, Quito and Ushuaia have contrasting positions, altitudes and climates.



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2. Place knowledge

Pogression focus	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Characteristics of places and comparisons		The school grounds contain human features, such as buildings, paths and play equipment, and physical features, such as grass and trees. Weather can differ across the UK at the same time. Shanghai is a large city with homes, workplaces, shops, transport routes and green spaces. The Huangpu River flows through it.	The Arctic is mainly an ocean covered by sea ice. Antarctica is land covered by a thick ice sheet. People live permanently in the Arctic, but nobody lives permanently in Antarctica. Nairobi is near the Equator but is cooler than many equatorial places because it is high above sea level. Swanage has a beach, cliffs, homes, shops, a pier, a promenade, a railway and coastal defences.	Mount Etna is an active volcano. Farming, tourism and settlements have developed around it. Antarctica has research stations rather than permanent towns. Rothera has accommodation, laboratories, workshops, medical facilities and a runway. Hemel Hempstead is a town. New Delhi is a capital city within a much larger urban area.	The Amazon is a region of forest, rivers, settlements and communities. People living there use the forest and river in different ways. The River Bulbourne is a local chalk stream surrounded by paths, roads, buildings, woodland and open land. Food may be grown, processed and packed in different places before it reaches the UK.	Innsbruck lies beside the River Inn on a flat Alpine valley floor, surrounded by steep mountains. The Great Barrier Reef is a connected group of marine habitats that supports wildlife, fishing, tourism and coastal protection. The Mojave Desert contains dunes, exposed rock, canyons, salt flats, protected land, small settlements and cities such as Las Vegas.	New Orleans is low-lying and protected by levees. Montserrat is a volcanic island where eruptions caused Plymouth and much of the south to be abandoned. West Texas has oil, gas and wind resources, connected to users by roads, pipelines, ports and electricity networks. The Americas include polar, temperate, tropical and arid environments.



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3. Human geography

Pogression focus	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Settlements, land use, population and transport		A settlement is a place where people live. Hemel Hempstead is a town and Shanghai is a city; both are settlements. Roads, railways and metro lines connect parts of a settlement. Bridges, tunnels and ferries allow people to cross rivers. Ports and docks are built beside water that is deep and wide enough for boats to load, unload and travel.	Settlements contain homes, schools, roads, shops, workplaces and green spaces, although they may look different in different places. A coastal settlement may include a harbour, pier, promenade, railway and coastal defences. These features support travel, work, tourism and protection from waves and flooding.	Villages, towns and cities differ in their population, buildings, services and functions. Linear, nucleated and dispersed describe the pattern of buildings in a settlement. Land may be used for homes, businesses, leisure, farming or transport. Antarctica has a temporary population that is larger in summer than in winter.	Amazon communities use rivers for water, food and transport and forests for food, medicine, materials and livelihoods. Deforestation changes forest land into farmland, mines, roads or settlements. Settlements and industries often develop near rivers because rivers provide water, transport routes and flatter land.	Alpine settlements and transport routes are concentrated on flatter valley floors. Roads, railways, passes, tunnels and cable cars help people travel across steep mountain landscapes. Desert settlements depend on managed or imported water, energy and food. Heat, scarce water and long distances affect how people live and travel.	Population density means the number of people living in a given area. Climate, relief, water, resources, jobs, transport and history influence where settlements develop. Exposure means being in harm's way. Poverty, poor health, weak housing and limited transport can make people more vulnerable to hazards.
Economy, trade, resources and interdependence		People travel between homes, schools, shops, workplaces and places of leisure. Rivers, roads and railways can move people and goods. Ports connect land and water transport.	Coasts support jobs in tourism, fishing, shops and boat travel. Residents, workers, visitors and businesses use coastal places in different ways.	Volcanic ash can weather into fertile soil, which supports farming. Volcanic landscapes also support tourism and jobs. Antarctic research depends on scientists and support workers, specialist buildings and supplies brought by ship or aircraft.	An import enters a country and an export leaves it for sale elsewhere. A supply chain links producers, transport workers, manufacturers, retailers and consumers. Responsible trade considers prices, working conditions and environmental effects. Rainforests and rivers provide resources, transport, livelihoods, recreation and energy.	Alpine tourism supports accommodation, transport, shops, restaurants and seasonal work. Oceans support fishing, shipping, tourism and recreation. Shipping routes connect producers, ports and consumers. Mining, ranching, tourism, military activity and renewable energy all use desert land and resources.	Renewable energy sources are replaced naturally on a human timescale. Non-renewable sources are finite or form extremely slowly. Energy systems connect sources, power stations, cables, pipelines, ports and consumers. Climate, geology, infrastructure, labour, investment and demand influence farming, mining, tourism and trade.



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4. Physical geography

Pogression focus	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Weather, climate, biomes and vegetation		The seasons occur in the order spring, summer, autumn and winter. UK summers are usually warmer and winters are usually colder, but rain, wind, cloud and sunshine can occur in any season. Weather describes the conditions of the atmosphere at a particular place and time. Temperature is measured in degrees Celsius.	Weather is the condition of the atmosphere over a short time. Climate is the usual pattern of weather over many years. Places near the Equator are generally warmer and places near the poles are generally colder. Tropical rainforests are hot and wet, hot deserts are dry and polar regions are cold.	Antarctica has a cold, dry polar climate and is classed as a polar desert because it receives very little precipitation. Earth's tilt creates very long summer days and long, dark winters within the Antarctic Circle.	Tropical rainforests are hot, humid and wet throughout the year. Their main layers are the emergent layer, canopy, understorey and forest floor. Rainforest plants have adaptations such as buttress roots, drip-tip leaves and climbing lianas. Different crops need different conditions of temperature, rainfall, sunlight and soil.	Temperature generally falls as altitude increases. Alpine vegetation changes from deciduous woodland to conifers, grassland and then sparse vegetation above the tree line. A desert is defined by very low precipitation, not by temperature. Desert plants and animals are adapted to conserve water or avoid extreme heat.	Hurricanes form over warm tropical oceans and can bring strong winds, heavy rain and storm surges. Climate graphs show average monthly temperature with a line and precipitation with bars. Latitude, altitude, relief, distance from the sea, ocean currents and prevailing winds help explain climate and biome patterns across the Americas.
Water, rivers, coasts, oceans and ice		A river is a natural channel of flowing water. Rivers can be used to move people and goods. Bridges, tunnels and ferries connect places on opposite sides of a river. Rain, snow and fog are forms of weather that involve water.	An ocean is a vast area of salt water. A sea is usually smaller and partly enclosed by land. The five oceans are connected and cover most of Earth's surface. The coast is where land meets the sea. Beaches, cliffs, bays, arches and stacks are coastal physical features.	An ice sheet covers a large area of land. A glacier is moving land ice. An ice shelf is attached to land but floats over the sea. An iceberg has broken away and floats independently. Sea ice and severe weather affect travel and human activity in Antarctica.	The Sun drives the water cycle. Water moves through evaporation, transpiration, condensation and precipitation. A river flows downhill from its source to its mouth. Tributaries join the main channel. Erosion removes material and deposition leaves it behind. These processes help form river features such as meanders, floodplains, oxbow lakes, estuaries and deltas.	Oceans cover about 71% of Earth's surface and contain most of its water. Ocean currents move water and heat around the world. Coral reefs provide habitats, support fishing and tourism and reduce wave energy reaching some coasts. Glaciers form from compressed snow and feed rivers. Water scarcity affects plants, animals, settlements and land use in deserts.	Sudden movement of the seabed can displace water and create a tsunami. Tsunami waves grow higher when they reach shallow coastal water. Storm surges push seawater towards the coast and can overwhelm flood defences. Rivers and coasts influence water supply, transport, trade, settlement and economic activity across the Americas.
Earth processes, landforms and natural hazards		A physical feature occurs naturally. A human feature is built or substantially changed by people. Rivers and trees are physical features. Roads, buildings and bridges are human features.	Waves wear away coastal rock through erosion. Over time, erosion can form cliffs, arches and stacks and can change the shape of a coastline.	Earth has a crust, mantle, outer core and inner core. The crust is divided into slowly moving tectonic plates. Magma is molten rock beneath Earth's surface. When it reaches the surface, it is called lava. Repeated eruptions of lava and ash can build a volcano. Lava, ash, rocks and gases can harm people, buildings and transport.	Gravity moves river water downhill. Upper courses are generally steeper and narrower than lower courses. Erosion, transport and deposition change a river channel and the surrounding landscape.	The Alps are fold mountains formed when tectonic plates pushed together and uplifted rock. Glaciers move downhill and shape valleys. Weathering breaks rock down. Erosion moves material and deposition can build landforms such as sand dunes.	A natural event becomes a hazard when it threatens people or infrastructure. It becomes a disaster when the effects exceed a community's capacity to cope. Hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions are caused by different physical processes and create different hazards. Tectonic activity formed the Andes. Rivers, erosion, geology and altitude also shape landscapes across the Americas.



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5. Environmental change and sustainability

Pogression focus	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Change, risk and sustainable choices		People change places to meet their needs. A change may improve access, safety or play, but different people may prefer different changes. People change their clothing and activities in response to weather.	People can damage or care for habitats. Protecting vegetation and reducing litter help living things survive. Sea walls and other coastal defences protect selected places from waves and flooding, but they also change the coast.	Monitoring, warnings, closures and evacuation can reduce volcanic risk, but they cannot prevent an eruption. The Antarctic Treaty supports peaceful scientific cooperation and environmental protection. No country governs the whole continent.	Deforestation for farming, logging, mining, roads and settlements damages habitats, stored carbon, rainfall systems and communities. Forests can be protected through sustainable use, protected areas, Indigenous land rights and restoration. Food and river decisions affect people, resources and environments in different places.	Climate change is reducing Alpine glacier ice and reliable snowfall, affecting water supplies, tourism and hazards. Plastic pollution, overfishing and warmer seas damage ocean ecosystems and affect food, jobs and communities. Desert habitats recover slowly from damage caused by water extraction, roads, mining and development.	Disaster risk depends on the hazard, people's exposure and vulnerability, and their capacity to cope. Energy sources differ in emissions, reliability, cost, safety, land use and environmental effects. Every source involves trade-offs. People respond to climatic and locational opportunities and constraints through technology, infrastructure, adaptation and decisions.