



Chambersbury Primary School

Geography - Vocabulary Progression Year 1

Human and physical geography

Human

Physical

Location Geography

Geographical skills and fieldwork

Geographical

What is it like here?

village
town
city

land
lake
river
ocean
sea

place
continent
country

aerial view	east
aerial	south
photograph	west
distance	features
location	direction
locate	physical feature
near	human feature
far	similar
left	different
right	
north	

What is the weather like in the UK?

weather
season
climate

Europe
England
Scotland

Mapping

map
globe
atlas
key

What is it like to live in Shanghai?

port
harbour
skyscraper
metro
transport

desert

Asia
China
Shanghai

Fieldwork

survey	thermometer
questionnaire	weather vane
compass	temperature
rain gauge	



Chambersbury Primary School

Geography - Vocabulary Progression Year 2

Human and physical geography

Human

Physical

Location Geography

Geographical skills and fieldwork

Geographical

What is it like here?

urban
rural

pack ice
ice sheet
arid
savannah
vegetation

grassland
rainforest
polar
mild
temperate

Africa
North America
South America
Antarctica
Oceania

Equator
North Pole
South Pole
Kenya

landmark

What is the weather like in the UK?

habitat

Atlantic Ocean
Indian Ocean
Southern Ocean
Pacific Ocean
London
Edinburgh

Cardiff
Belfast
Ben Nevis
Lake Windermere
Mount Snowdon
capital city

Mapping

sketch map
scale
OS map

What is it like to live by the coast?

aquarium
tourist

arch
bay
coast
mudflats
pier

cliff
coastline
island
sand dunes
stack

Fieldwork

sample
tally chart
pictogram
bar chart
data collection



Chambersbury Primary School

Geography - Vocabulary Progression Year 3

Human and physical geography

Human

Physical

Location Geography

Geographical skills and fieldwork

Geographical

Why do people live near volcanoes?

geothermic energy
man-made rock

inner core
outer core
mantle
crust
tectonic plate
volcano (shield,
composite, active,
dormant, extinct)

plate boundary
mountain (fault
block, fold,
volcanic)
magma
magma chamber
vent
fertile soil
earthquake

fault line tsunami
epicentre
seismic wave
focus
rock (natural,
igneous,
sedimentary,
metamorphic)

Italy
climate zones (polar,
temperate, arid,
tropical,
mediterranean,
mountains)
Earth

Mount
Kilimanjaro
The Himalayas
The Rockies
The Alps
Mount Etna
Lines of
latitude/
longitude

negative/positive
effects
climate change
adaptation
tourism

explorer
cross-section
similarity/difference
land use

Who lives in Antarctica?

treaty

ice shelf
drifting ice
iceberg
wilderness

Tropic of Capricorn
Tropic of Cancer
Northern Hemisphere
Southern Hemisphere

Arctic Circle
Antarctic
Circle
South Georgia
Mount Erebus

index
hemisphere
scale bar
mapping
tilt
four-figure grid

reference
plot
eight points of
the compass
route

Are all settlements the same?

dispersed
recreational land
agricultural land
residential land
commercial land

New Delhi
settlement
county
region
local

expedition
magnetic/magnetic
field
research
intention

destination
evaluate
compare
improvement

Fieldwork



Chambersbury Primary School

Geography - Vocabulary Progression Year 4

Human and physical geography

Human

Physical

Location Geography

Geographical skills and fieldwork

Geographical

Why are rainforests important to us?

indigenous people
deforestation
Community
logging
mining

vegetation belts
forest floor
understorey layer
canopy layer
emergent

drought
buttress roots
lianas

biomes (Savannah,
Tropical rainforest,
Temperate deciduous forest,
Boreal forest,
Desert, Tundra)

Amazon Rainforest
Brazil
Manaus

benefit/
advantage
drawback/disadv
antage
process
approximate

greenhouse gas
sustainability
carbon footprint
global warming
renewable
energy

Mapping

Where does our food come from?

food miles
import
export
distribution
produce
waste
consume
fertilisers
pesticides

pollution
trade
product
cooperative
responsible trade
seasonal food
air freight
grant
packaging

Côte d'Ivoire
West Africa

represent
grid square

Fieldwork

What are rivers and how are they used?

irrigation
leisure
supply

condensation
evaporation
precipitation
transpiration
water cycle
delta
estuary

floodplain
meander
oxbow lake
river mouth
source
tributary
valley

River Severn
River Thames
River Trent
River Great Ouse
River Wye
River Mississippi.

River Amazon
River Nile
River Danube
River Yangtze
River Murray

investigate
interview
method
risk
enquiry
data
analyse
present
quantitative/qual
itative data
summarise

interpret
quote
source
sample size
reliability
limitations
open-
ended/closed
question
Likert scale



Chambersbury Primary School

Geography - Vocabulary Progression Year 5

Human and physical geography

Human

Physical

Location Geography

Geographical skills and fieldwork

Geographical

What is life like in the Alps?

population

mountain range
temperate
deciduous
forest

coniferous trees
deciduous trees

The Alps
France
Monaco
Switzerland

Liechtenstein
Austria
Germany
Slovenia

natural disaster
threat
species
dependent
geology
ecology
ecosystem

atmosphere
human footprint
environment
comparison

Why do oceans matter?

coral bleaching
microplastics
acidification
overfishing
Marine Protected
Area

single-use plastic
re-purpose
plastic pollution
disposable
policy
biodegradable

ocean current
buffer
coral reef
marine
erosion
decompose

Great Barrier Reef
Australia
Japan
South Korea
USA
Thailand

India

land height
sea level
thematic
map
aerial map
digital map
time zone

Would you like to live in the desert?

airstrip
national park
nature reserve
tourist attraction
military
ranching
agriculture
desertification

flash flood

rainfall
barren
sparse
mesa
mushroom rock
natural arch
salt flat

Nevada
Utah
Arizona
Mojave Desert
Death Valley
Gobi Desert
Atacama Desert

Chihuahuan Desert
Patagonian Desert
Antarctic Polar
Desert
Great Victoria
Desert
Prime/Greenwich
Meridian

fieldwork
evidence

Mapping

Fieldwork



Chambersbury Primary School

Geography - Vocabulary Progression Year 6

Human and physical geography

Location Geography

Geographical skills and fieldwork

Human

Physical

Geographical

Why does population change?

densely populated
sparsely populated
population density
distribution
birth rate
death rate
natural increase

migration
refugee
push factors
pull factors
voluntary
involuntary
air pollution
noise pollution

land mass

Singapore
Hong Kong
Bangladesh
Greenland
Iceland
Canada
Oman
Bulgaria

impact
landscape
urban planner

Mapping

six-figure grid references
contour lines

Where does our energy come from?

energy source
hydropower
wind power
solar power
nuclear power
biofuel
non-renewable

dam
replenished
consumption
producer
headquarter
offshore
onshore

coal
natural gas
crude oil
emissions
ocean tide
regenerate
fossil fuel

Port of Blyth
Midland, Texas
Glasgow
Liverpool
Bristol
Newcastle
Southampton

Plymouth
Leeds

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

Fieldwork

Can I carry out an independent fieldwork enquiry?

N/A

N/A

N/A