

Geography Skills Progression

Skill	Aspect	Key Stage 1		Lower Key Stage 2		Upper Key Stage 2	
		End of Y1	End of Y2	End of Y3	End of Y4	End of Y5	End of Y6
Ask	Human and Physical	Use the correct terms for simple, geographical features in the local environment	Describe and compare human and physical features seen in the local environment and others places in the world	Describe and compare different human and physical geography of a place, offering explanations for the locations for some of these features.	Describe how physical activity has impacted and/ or changed the physical and human characteristics of a place in the world.	Describe how human activity has impacted upon and/or changed the physical and human characteristics of a place in the world.	Explain how climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts affect the physical and human features of a place in the world.
	Express views	Ask and respond to questions about places/environments.	Use given information and observations to ask and respond to questions about the environment, recognising how people affect this.	Provide reasons for their observations, views and judgments regarding places and environments.	Offer reasons for their own views and recognise that other people may hold different views.	Discuss and comment on a range of views people hold about environmental interaction and change.	Recognise that different values and attitudes, including their own, result in different approaches to environmental interaction and change.
Explore/collect	The world	Find and name some continents on a world map.	Name and locate the world's continents and oceans on a world map or globe.	Make comparisons of the same geographical feature in different countries.	Locate the countries of Europe (including Russia), North and South America.	Describe and explain similarities and differences (human and physical) of a region of a European country, and a region or area within North or South America.	Describe the environmental regions, key human and physical characteristics, countries and major cities of Europe, North and South America.
	Environmental	Describe how pollution e.g litter, affects the local environment.	Suggest ways of improving the local environment.	Identify how people both damage and improve the environment.		Explain the effect of commercial and industrial activity on the environment and suggest ways to improve it.	Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of environmental schemes in place to sustain or improve the environment.
	United Kingdom	Name and locate the 4 countries of the UK on a map or globe.	Name and locate the capital cities of the UK and its surrounding seas.	Name and locate vegetation belts across the UK explaining how some of these have changed over time.	Name and locate rivers of the UK and describe the impact on human and physical geography of the places they are found in.	Name and locate counties and cities of the UK, identifying and describing the human and physical characteristics.	Describe in detail the human characteristics of some of the largest cities of the UK taking into account population, economic activity and transport systems.
	Vocabulary	Use basic geographical vocabulary to name physical and human features of familiar places.	Use geographical vocabulary to name features of familiar and unfamiliar places.	Use technical and geological vocabulary to describe geographical processes.	Explain views on a geographical issue using appropriate vocabulary.	Ask and answer geographical questions using correct geographical vocabulary.	Present findings both graphically and in writing using appropriate vocabulary.
	Research	Use maps, pictures and stories to find out about different places.	Use information texts and the web to gather information about the world's human and physical geography.	Locate appropriate information, needed for a task, from a source material.	Suggest which source material to use for a specific task, locating the information needed.	Use search engines, index, contents and other research techniques to locate and interpret information.	Use search engines, index, contents and other research techniques to locate and interpret information. Identify gaps in information collated and suggest ways of finding it.
Analyse	Processes	Describe in simple terms how wind or water has affected the geography of an area.	Describe how a physical or human process has changed an aspect of an environment e.g the local environment.	Explain how the physical processes of erosion, transportation and deposition affect the environment.	Describe and explain how physical processes have changed the characteristics of landscapes, country or continent.	Describe how physical and human processes give a continent its unique characteristics.	Describe how climate, ecology and people are affected by cold, and describe the freezing and thawing processes.
	Patterns	Answer simple questions regarding straightforward geographical patterns.	Explain simple patterns and offer an explanation.	Provide a reasonable explanation for features in relation to location.	Describe patterns in geography and offer clear explanations for why they appear.	Respond to and ask relevant questions about patterns in the landscape and make appropriate observations of features, relative to others.	Identify geographical patterns on a range of scales.
	Weather and climate	Name the 4 seasons and describe typical weather conditions for each of them.	Locate hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles and explain how the weather affects these areas.	Sequence and explain the features of a physical weather process such as the water cycle.	Describe and explain how the climate of a country or continent is linked to the distribution of natural resources and tourism.	Describe how weather and climate affects land use and food production.	Explain how extreme climates affect the lives of people living there and the human and physical geography.
	Places	Identify the similarities and differences between the local environment and one other place.	Describe and compare the physical similarities/differences between an area in the UK and one of a contrasting, non-European country.	Compare and contrast areas of vegetation and biomes in 2 different locations.	Compare and contrast how areas of the world capitalise on their physical or human features.	Recognise and describe the physical and human features of places, appreciating the importance of wider geographical location in understanding places.	Describe how physical and human processes can lead to similarities/differences in the environments of places and in the lives of people who live there.

Explore/collect	Mapping	Draw a simple picture labelling particular features.	Draw simple maps or plans using a symbol/key.	Draw sketch maps and plans using agreed symbols as a key.	Draw sketch maps and plans using standardised symbols as key.	Produce own scaled maps.	Produce accurate scaled maps.
	Using maps	Follow a map to plan a route around the school.	Locate continents and oceans on a world map.	Locate geographical features on a map or atlas using symbols shown in a key.	Locate and name geographical features on an Ordnance Survey map.	Compare land use and geographical features on different types of maps.	Compare and contrast areas of the UK and the wider world by analysing the geographical features on a range of maps, including digital/computer mapping.
	Perspectives	Recognise simple human and physical features on an aerial photograph or simple map, showing an awareness that objects look different from above.	Identify and describe geographical human and physical features using an aerial photograph.	Compare and contrast aerial photographs and plan perspectives explaining their similarities and differences.	Suggest where in the world an aerial photograph or satellite image shows, explaining reasons for their suggestion.	Explain what physical and human processes may have occurred in a place by studying an aerial image of it.	Use the web and satellite mapping tools to find out and present geographical information about a place.
	Field work	Name, describe and group features of the home or school environment from first hand observations, responding to simple questions.	Name, describe and compare human and physical features of their own locality and another name's place, asking and responding to questions.	Observe, measure and record the human and physical features in the local area responding to a range of geographical questions.	Propose geographical questions, collecting and recording specific evidence to answer them.	Choose the best method of recording observations and measurements, including sketch maps, plans, graphs and digital technologies.	Describe and explain geographical processes observed including taking accurate measurements and representing these in text, graphs and spreadsheets.
	Direction	Use simple locational language, including in front, behind, next to, far away and near to, to describe the location of geographical features on a map and in fieldwork.	Use compass directions (North, South, East and West) to describe the location of geographical features and routes on a map.	Use the 8 points of a compass to describe the location of a country or geographical feature.	Plot a route on a map or globe from one place to another, identifying countries or significant landmarks that are passed.	Use 4 and 6 figure grid references to locate features on an Ordnance Survey or world map.	Plot a route on a map, globe or satellite image suggesting the fastest route from one place to another and the most effective mode of transport.
	Data	Collect data during fieldwork such as the number of trees.	Collect and organise simple data from first and second hand sources including fieldwork.	Analyse data which they have collected from first hand observations and experiences, identifying any patterns.	Collect and analyse data from first and second hand sources, identifying and analysing patterns and suggesting reasons for them.	Suggest sources for finding data related to a task and analyse data collected to draw conclusions about a place or geographical issue.	Analyse and present more complex data, from different sources, suggesting reasons why it may vary.
	Research	Use maps, pictures and stories to find out about different places.	Use information texts and the web to gather information about the world's human and physical geography.	Locate appropriate information, needed for a task, from a source material.	Suggest which source material to use for a specific task, locating the information needed.	Use search engines, index, contents and other research techniques to locate and interpret information.	Use search engines, index, contents and other research techniques to locate and interpret information. Identify gaps in information collated and suggest ways of finding it.
	Positioning	Locate hot and cold areas of the world.	Locate the Equator and the North and South Poles.	Locate and explain the significance of the Northern and Southern hemispheres and the Arctic and Antarctic Circles.	Locate and explain the significance of the Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn to a range of countries of the world.	Locate and explain the significance of latitude and longitude and the Prime Greenwich Meridian.	Explain how time zones (including day and night) of different countries around the world affect the human and physical geography of a place.
Communicate	Changes over time	Explain what changes are taking place in the local environment.	Explain how a place has changed over time.	Identify changes in the local and global environment.	Describe how changes, in the features of a place, can affect the lives and activities of the people living there.	Explain how things change by referring to the physical and human features of the landscape.	Explain how physical and human processes lead to diversity and change in places.
	Vocabulary	Use basic geographical vocabulary to name physical and human features of familiar places.	Use geographical vocabulary to name features of familiar and unfamiliar places.	Use technical and geological vocabulary to describe geographical processes.	Explain views on a geographical issue using appropriate vocabulary.	Ask and answer geographical questions using correct geographical vocabulary.	Present findings both graphically and in writing using appropriate vocabulary.