

GEOGRAPHY

THE FOXTON CURRICULUM



You can travel the seas, poles and deserts and see nothing. To really understand the world, you need to get under the skin of the people and places. In other words, learn about geography. I can't imagine a subject more relevant in schools. We'd all be lost without it.
– Michael Palin

At Foxton Primary School, we are geographers.



Our Geography Curriculum

We are fortunate to be on the doorstep of many fascinating geographical sites which play a key part in our geography and wider curriculum. The village of Foxton (with a working swing bridge) and Grand Union Canal are all just a short walk from our school, as is the iconic Foxton Locks – home to the longest and steepest flight of locks in Britain. Much like our

own school grounds, the surrounding area is full of natural green space and home to a wide variety of wildlife.

Through our geography lessons, we aim to develop children's curiosity and fascination of the world and its people. Our curriculum offers a clearly mapped journey starting in the early years and is built upon seven big geographical ideas – 'motorways of conceptual understanding' – which pupils revisit and build their knowledge of as they progress through the school. These are:

Place

- Places are specific parts of the earth's surface
- Places range in size from home and local area to states, nations, regions and continents
- Geography describes places and explains characteristics
- Personal experience gives us perceptions and viewpoints, leading to a sense of place

Space

- Geographic space is the 3D surface of the earth
- Geographers look at patterns over the earth's surface (geographic space)
- Geography recognises that people use space differently and that patterns change over time

Environment

- The environment is all our living and non-living surroundings
- Environment contains natural and human-built features
- People use, alter and manage environments
- Geography looks at the interactions between people and environments

Inter-connection

- No object in geography can be viewed alone – they are always interconnected
- Interconnections may be through physical processes, such as weather, erosion, the water cycle
- Interconnections may be through human movements of people, ideas, money and trade
- Geography investigates systems of interconnections

Sustainability

- Sustainability is about something remaining indefinitely into the future
- Examples that geography focuses on include ecosystems, resources, communities, ways of life
- Geography emphasises the values of sustainability

Scale

- Scale in geography ranges from personal through local, national, regional, to global
- Geography looks at places, space, interconnections, environments at all these different scales
- Maps at different scales are a key resource in geography

Change

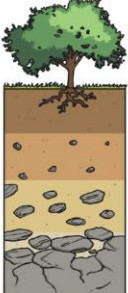
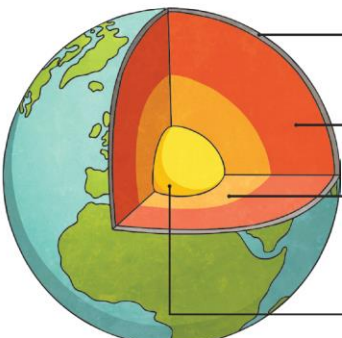
- Awareness of change over time and space is essential in geography
- Geographers investigate the physical and human reasons for change
- Geography uses understanding of change to predict into the future and plan for the future

Staff think carefully about how each topic contributes to developing these ideas over time, and we use a knowledge planner to map out in granular detail each topic's key learning questions and the accompanying knowledge that answers these. Moreover, every topic has a child-friendly knowledge organiser that clearly sets out the key knowledge and vocabulary to be learnt and remembered. These documents help teachers understand what has been taught previously and how their lessons build on prior learning as well as create the foundations for what comes next.

Pupils investigate a range of places – both in Britain and abroad – to help develop their knowledge and understanding of the Earth's physical and human processes. In Fox Cubs, children begin to make sense of their physical world and their community. They listen to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems that help to foster their understanding of our culturally, socially, technologically and ecologically diverse world. For example, alongside reading the Gruffalo, the children learn about forests and their animals. In the spring term, they learn about continents and oceans as well as recognising some of the similarities and differences between life in this country and life in the polar regions. The children also begin to use world maps and globes to show where stories are based. In the summer term, children make their first maps – both of the school grounds and fantasy pirate ones!

In Class 1, children begin to use real maps and recognise physical and human features to do with the local area, before exploring the continents and oceans of the world. Children begin to compare where they live to places outside of Europe as well as ask and answer geographical questions. Further up the school, map skills continue to be developed using digital maps, keys and symbols as children begin to develop their fieldwork skills. Through revisiting and consolidating skills, children build on prior knowledge alongside introducing new skills and challenge. Across both Key Stages, children have a range of opportunities to experience geography through practical engaging activities beyond the classroom.

The impact of our curriculum is that geography is enjoyed by all children across school. Children use geographical vocabulary accurately and understand the different strands of geography with a secure knowledge of Earth's key physical and human processes. Children can begin to make relevant links from geography to other curriculum subjects such as history and science as well as our Global Goals. Children improve their enquiry skills and inquisitiveness about the world around them as well as their own and other people's impact. All children realise that they have choices to make in the world, developing a positive commitment to the environment and the future of our planet.

Key Vocabulary			Layers of Soil	
cumulonimbus cloud	Large thunderstorm clouds.		humus	Rotting dead leaves and animals.
erupt	To suddenly burst out causing lava to explode out of the earth's surface.		topsoil	Plant's roots grow here. Very few rocks.
fossils	The remains of plants or animals that lived a long time ago which can be found deep in the earth.		subsoil	Rocks and stones. Full of nutrients. Tree roots may reach. Fossils .
magma	Extremely hot, liquid rock.		bedrock	A mass of rocks. Fossils .
tectonic plates	The earth's crust is made up of large areas called tectonic plates that join together.			
Layers of Earth				
		Crust	Thin outer layer. Hard rock. 10km-90km thick.	
		Mantle	Extremely hot rock that flows. 3000km thick.	
		Outer core	Iron and nickel. Mostly liquid with some rocky parts. 4000°C.	
		Inner core	Iron and nickel. Hottest layer at over 5000°C.	

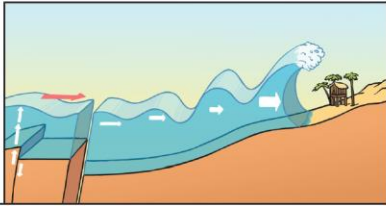
Volcanoes

- Volcanoes are made when pressure builds up inside the earth. This affects the earth's crust causing **magma** to sometimes **erupt** through it.
- Active volcanoes have **erupted** in the last 10 000 years.
- Dormant volcanoes haven't **erupted** in the last 10 000 years but may erupt again.
- Extinct volcanoes aren't expected to **erupt** again.



Tsunamis

- A tsunami is a giant wave caused by a huge earthquake under the ocean.
- The earthquake causes a large amount of water to be displaced very quickly causing a series of waves.
- As the waves travel through shallower water near land, they get bigger and bigger. The wave crashes onto the land causing devastation to buildings and sometimes even lives.



Tornadoes

- A tornado is a swirling funnel of air that forms when warm air rises from near the ground into big **cumulonimbus clouds**.
- There can be thunder and lightning at the same time.
- You can see tornadoes due to the dust and water droplets caught in the clouds.
- Storm chasers are film-makers and scientists who head towards the storms. They film the tornadoes and collect data about them.
- Most tornadoes happen in Tornado Alley in America – more than 500 each year.
- Tornadoes can happen in the UK but only around 30 per year.



Earthquakes

- Earthquakes are caused when the earth's **tectonic plates** suddenly move.
- Most earthquakes occur near the **tectonic plate** boundaries.
- Earthquakes can cause lots of damage to roads, buildings and property.



Cycle A Overview

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Class 1	Magical Mapping	<i>History: Local study</i>	Let's Go to China	<i>History: Emily Davison & Rosa Parks</i>	Wonderful Weather	<i>History: Travel and Transport</i>
Class 2	All Around the World	<i>History: Stone Age to Iron Age</i>	Local Geography: Foxton Locks	<i>History: Invaders and Settlers</i>	The United Kingdom	<i>History: Invaders and Settlers</i>
Class 3	Marvellous Maps	<i>History: Battle of Britain (local history link to Harrington)</i>	Exploring Eastern Europe	<i>History: Invaders and Settlers</i>	Enough for Everyone	

Cycle B Overview

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Class 1	Our Country	<i>History: Toys: Now & Then</i>	Sensational Safari	<i>History: The Gunpowder Plot</i>	Beside the Seaside	<i>History: Great Fire of London</i>
Class 2	Water	<i>History: Richard III</i>	Rainforests	<i>History: Ancient Egypt</i>	Extreme Earth	<i>History: Crime and Punishment</i>
Class 3	The Amazing Americas	<i>History: Mayan civilization</i>	Our Changing World	<i>History: Ancient Greece</i>	Trade and Economics	

Knowing more and remembering more

Every geography lesson starts with retrieval practice in order to combat the forgetfulness curve. This retrieves the most recent learning and makes connections to the big ideas of geography as mentioned above. Through responsive teaching, staff continuously monitor pupils' progress against expected attainment for their age and provide in-lesson feedback in order to move the learning forward. Additional support and challenge is provided as required. Children have a topic book in which their geography work is recorded. Every unit has a summative outcome that is marked in depth and used for teacher assessment purposes.

A Global Curriculum

Our geography curriculum serves as a pivotal catalyst in nurturing the global citizenship that lies at the core of our educational mission. With a deep commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), our curriculum is strategically designed to foster an understanding of complex global issues. Through thoughtful case studies addressing poverty, eye-opening excursions to regions practicing sustainable agriculture, and exploration of local water infrastructure, our curriculum resonates with multiple SDGs.

In line with Goal 1: No Poverty, our curriculum engages students in empathetic examinations of poverty's impact on diverse communities. By delving into real-world scenarios, students develop a heightened awareness of the challenges faced by marginalized populations around the world.

The emphasis on sustainable agriculture aligns seamlessly with Goal 2: Zero Hunger. As students explore agricultural practices that prioritize environmental stewardship and equitable access to food, they cultivate an appreciation for the delicate balance between human needs and ecological sustainability.

Furthermore, our geography curriculum integrates with Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, as students analyse local water infrastructure systems and their significance. This exploration encourages responsible water usage and highlights the critical importance of equitable access to clean water resources.

The thematic units within the curriculum amplify the integration of SDGs whilst deepening children's general understanding of Life of Land (Goal 15). In the unit 'Enough for Everyone', the focus on affordable and clean energy aligns with Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. The unit 'Extreme Earth' connects with Goal 13: Climate Action, promoting an

understanding of climate-related challenges and inspiring future advocates for environmental preservation.

In the unit 'Beside the Seaside', students delve into the realm of marine ecosystems and life below water, aligning with Goal 14: Life Below Water. This exploration nurtures a sense of responsibility for marine conservation and underscores the interconnectedness of terrestrial and aquatic environments.

Through our geography curriculum, we strive to instil not only a comprehensive understanding of the world's complexities but also a deep-rooted sense of responsibility and agency to drive positive change. By aligning with the SDGs, our curriculum empowers students to become informed, compassionate, and engaged global citizens who actively contribute to a sustainable and harmonious future.

Appendix 1

National Curriculum

Purpose of study

A high-quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes. As pupils progress, their growing knowledge about the world should help them to deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes, and of the formation and use of landscapes and environments. Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills provide the frameworks and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at different scales are shaped, interconnected and change over time.

Aims

The national curriculum for geography aims to ensure that all pupils:

- develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world, how these are interdependent and how they bring about spatial variation and change over time
- are competent in the geographical skills needed to:
 - collect, analyse and communicate with a range of data gathered through experiences of fieldwork that deepen their understanding of geographical processes
 - interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
 - communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length.

Subject content

Key stage 1

Pupils should develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality. They should understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and begin to use geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness.

Pupils should be taught to:

Locational knowledge

- name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans
- name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas

Key stage 2

Pupils should extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America. This will include the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They should develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

Pupils should be taught to:

Locational knowledge

- locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental

<p>Place knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country <p>Human and physical geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> key physical features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop <p>Geographical skills and fieldwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as the countries, continents and oceans studied at this key stage use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language [for example, near and far; left and right], to describe the location of features and routes on a map use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features; devise a simple map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment. 	<p>regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night) <p>Place knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America <p>Human and physical geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe and understand key aspects of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water <p>Geographical skills and fieldwork</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.
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