



Let your light shine

Geography progression

Big Idea	Aspect	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Humankind	Human features and landmarks	Human features of the immediate environment include the school, the playground, streets and houses	Human features are man-made and can include shops, houses and buildings.	Human features include factories, farms and offices. Landmarks and monuments are features of a landscape and can help to establish a location.	Human features can include castles, schools, hospitals, bridges and these can be used in different ways.	Services include banks, post offices, hospitals, public transport and garages. Land use types include leisure, housing, industry, transport and agriculture.	Human features can be interconnected by function, type and transport links.	Transport networks can be rail, road, canal, air and sea. These link places together and are usually built due to high demand.	The distribution of and access to natural resources, cultural influences and economic activity are significant factors in community life in a settlement.
	Settlements and land use			A settlement is a place where people live and work. Towns and cities are urban settlements.	Industries are businesses that make things, sell things and help people live their everyday lives. Land can be used for recreational, transport, agricultural, residential and commercial purposes, or a mixture of these.	Different types of settlement include rural, urban, hamlet, town, village, city and suburban areas. A city is a large settlement where many people live and work. Residential areas surrounding cities are called suburbs.	Land uses include agricultural, recreational, housing and industry. Water systems are used for transport, industry, leisure and power.	Agricultural land use can be split into 3 main types. An allotment is a small piece of land. A variety of crops are grown in the UK. A wide variety of livestock are reared in the UK.	Natural resources include food, minerals (aluminium, sandstone and oil) energy sources (water, coal and gas) and water.
Processes	Climate and weather	There are changes in the local environment	There are 4 seasons in the UK which have weather patterns.	There are 4 seasons in the UK which have weather patterns. In the UK the length of a day varies depending on the season. Symbols can show different weather.	A weather pattern is a type of weather that is repeated.	Excessive precipitation includes thunderstorms, downbursts, tornadoes, waterspouts, tropical cyclones, extratropical cyclones, blizzards and ice storms.	Climatic variation describes the changes in weather patterns or the average weather conditions of a country or continent.	Changes to the weather and climate (temperature, weather patterns and precipitation) can affect land use. Farmers living in different countries adapt their farming practices to suit their local climate and landscape.	Climate and extreme weather can affect the size and nature of settlements, shelters and buildings, diet, lifestyle, jobs, clothing, transport and transportation links and the availability of natural resources.
	Physical processes				Erosion is a physical process that involves the weathering and movement of natural materials, such as rock, sand and soil. Erosion is caused by wind and water, including waves, floods, rivers and rainfall.	Volcanic eruptions and earthquakes happen when two tectonic plates push into each other, pull apart from one another or slide alongside each other. The centre of an earthquake is called the epicentre.	Water cannot be made. It is constantly recycled through a process called the water cycle. The four stages of the water cycle are evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection. During the water cycle, water changes state due to heating and cooling.	Soil fertility, drainage and climate influence the placement and success of agricultural land.	Physical processes that can affect a landscape include erosion by wind, water or ice; the deposition of stone and silt by water and ice; land movement, such as landslides and tectonic activity, such as earthquakes or volcanic eruptions.
Investigation	Geographical resources		Maps and photographs can be used to show key features of the local environment.	An aerial photograph or plan perspective shows an area of land from above.	An aerial photograph can be vertical (an image taken directly from above) or oblique (an image taken from above and to the side).	Maps, globes and digital mapping tools can help to locate and describe significant geographical features.	An atlas is a collection of maps and information that shows geographical features, topography, boundaries, climatic, social and economic statistics of an area.	Aerial photography is used in cartography, land-use planning and environmental studies. It can be used alongside maps to find out detailed information about a place, or places.	Satellite images are photographs of Earth taken by imaging satellites.
	Data analysis			Data is information that can be collected and used to answer a geographical question.	Data can be recorded in different ways, including tables, charts and pictograms.	Primary data includes information gathered by observation and investigation.	Secondary data includes information gathered by geographical reports, surveys, maps, research, books and the internet.	Geographical data, such as demographics or economic statistics, can be used as evidence to support conclusions.	Data helps us to understand patterns and trends but sometimes there can be variations due to numerous factors

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	Fieldwork		Fieldwork includes going on walks and visits to collect information about the environment.	Fieldwork includes going out in the environment to look, ask questions, take photographs, take measurements and collect samples.	Fieldwork can help to answer questions about the local environment and can include observing or measuring, identifying or classifying and recording.	The term geographical evidence relates to facts, information and numerical data.	Fieldwork techniques, such as sketch maps, data collection and digital technologies, can provide evidence to support and answer a geographical hypothesis.	A geographical enquiry can help us to understand the physical geography, or human geography of an area and the impacts on the surrounding environment.	Representing, analysing, concluding, communicating, reflecting and responding are helpful strategies to answer geographical questions.
Materials	Natural and man-made materials			A material is something used to build or make something else. Natural materials are dug out of the ground, grown or taken from a living thing. Man-made materials are often made from natural materials but have been changed to have different properties.		There are three main types of rock found in the Earth's crust. They are sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic.	Rivers transport materials in four ways - solution, suspension, saltation, traction. Different types of soil include clay, sandy, silty and loamy.	The topography of an area intended for agricultural purposes is an important consideration.	The polar oceans are significantly colder than other world oceans. This influences the presence of sea ice, glaciers and icebergs.
Nature	Physical features			Physical features are naturally-created features of the Earth.	A physical feature is one that forms naturally, and can change over time due to weather and other forces.	A volcano is an opening in the Earth's surface from which gas, hot magma and ash can escape. The Earth is made of four different layers.	Mountains form over millions of years. There are five types of mountain: fold, fault-block, volcanic, dome and plateau.	North America is broadly categorised into six major biomes: tundra, coniferous forest, grasslands (prairie), deciduous forest, desert and tropical rainforest. South America has a vast variety of biomes, including desert, alpine, rainforest and grasslands.	The Arctic is a sea office surrounded by land and located at the highest latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere. Antarctica is a continent located in the Southern Hemisphere. Physical features typical of the Arctic and Antarctic regions include glaciers, icebergs, ice caps, ice sheets, ice shelves and sea ice.
	Environment	It is everybody's responsibility to look after the environment.		Litter and pollution have a harmful effect on the areas where we live, work and play.	The local environment can be improved by picking up litter, planting flowers and improving amenities.	The Earth has five climate zones: desert, Mediterranean, polar, temperate and tropical.	Altitudinal zonation describes the different climates and types of wildlife at different altitudes on mountains.	The Earth has five climate zones: desert, Mediterranean, polar, temperate and tropical. A biome is a large ecological area on the Earth's surface and are defined by a range of factors.	Climate change is the long-term change in expected patterns of weather that contributes to the melting of polar ice caps, rising sea levels and extreme weather. Climate change is caused by global warming, and rearing livestock.
	Sustainability			Natural environments can be affected by the actions of humans. Humans can protect the environment.	Conservation is the protection of living things and the environment from damage caused by human activity. Conservation activities protect the environment for people in the future.	A person's carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere from their activities.	The environment produces natural resources. Humans use some natural resources to make energy. Some natural resources cannot be replaced, like coal or oil. They are non-renewable. Some, like wind or flowing water, are renewable sources of energy.	Industries can make their manufacturing processes more sustainable and better for the environment by using renewable energy sources, reducing, reusing and recycling and sharing resources.	Natural resource management (NRM) manages natural resources, including water, land, soil, plants and animals. It recognises that people rely on healthy landscapes to live and aims to create sustainable ways of using land now and in the future.
Place and space	World	The world has lots of different places in the world.	Globes and maps can show us the location of different places around the world.	A continent is a large area of land. The world's seven continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America. The five oceans are the Arctic Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean and Southern Ocean.	An ocean is a large sea. There are five oceans. Seas include the Black, Red and Caspian Seas. The world's seven continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America.	Countries in Europe include the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, Italy and Belgium. Russia is part of both Europe and Asia.	The North American continent includes the countries of the USA, Canada and Mexico as well as the Central American countries. The South American continent includes the countries of Brazil, Argentina and Chile.	There are several major cities around the world.	Geographical interconnections are the ways in which people and things are connected.

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	UK			The United Kingdom (UK) is a union of four countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. A capital city is a city that is home to the government and ruler of a country. London is the capital city of England, Belfast is the capital city of Northern Ireland, Edinburgh is the capital city of Scotland and Cardiff is the capital city of Wales.	The characteristics of countries include their size, landscape, capital city, language, currency and key landmarks. England is the biggest country in the United Kingdom.	Counties of the United Kingdom include Derbyshire, Sussex and Warwickshire. Major cities of the United Kingdom include London, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Manchester and Newcastle.	Significant rivers of the UK include the Thames, Severn, Trent and Mersey. Significant mountains and mountain ranges include Ben Nevis, Snowdon and the Pennines.	Relative location is where something is found in comparison with other features.	A geographical pattern is the arrangement of objects on the Earth's surface in relation to one another.
	Location			Warmer areas of the world are closer to the equator and colder areas of the world are further from the equator. The equator is an imaginary line that divides the Earth into two parts: the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Continents have different climates depending on where they are in the world.	The equator is an imaginary line that divides the world into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. The North Pole is the most northern point on Earth. The South Pole is the most southern point on Earth.	Latitude is the distance north or south of the equator and longitude is the distance east or west of the Prime Meridian.	The Tropic of Cancer is 23 degrees north of the equator and Tropic of Capricorn is 23 degrees south of the equator.	The Prime (or Greenwich) Meridian is an imaginary line that divides the Earth into eastern and western hemispheres. The same at Greenwich is called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Each time zone that is 15 degrees to the west of Greenwich is another hour earlier than GMT. Each time zone 15 degrees to the east is another hour later.	The Northern Hemisphere is the part of Earth that is to the north of the equator. The Southern Hemisphere is the part of Earth that is to the south of the equator. The Prime Meridian is the imaginary line from the north Pole to the south Pole that passes through Greenwich in England and marks 0° longitude, from which all other longitudes are measured.
	Position	Positional language is used to describe where things are in relation to one another. Positional language includes in, on, next to, behind and in front of.	Positional language is used to describe where things are in relation to one another. Positional language includes in, on, next to, behind, in front of, in between, above, below and underneath.	Positional language includes behind, next to and in front of. Directional language includes left, right, straight ahead and turn.	The four cardinal points on a compass are north, south, east and west. A route is a set of directions that can be used to get from one place to another.	The eight points of a compass are north, south, east, west, north-east, north-west, south-east and south-west.	The four cardinal directions are north (N), east (E), south (S) and west (W), which are at 90° angles on the compass rose. The four intercardinal (ordinal) directions are halfway between the cardinal directions: north-east (NE), south-east (SE), south-west (SW) and north-west (NW).	Compass points can be used to describe the relationship of features to each other, or to describe the direction of travel. Accurate grid references identify the position of key physical and human features.	Invisible lines of latitude run horizontally around the Earth and show the northerly or southerly position of a geographical area. Invisible lines of longitude run vertically from the North to the South Pole and show the westerly or easterly position of a geographical area.
	Maps		A map is a picture or drawing of an area of land or sea.	A map is a picture or drawing of an area of land or sea that can show human and physical features. A key is used to show features on a map. A map has symbols to show where things are located.	A map is a picture or drawing of an area of land or sea that can show human and physical features. Maps use symbols and a key. A key is the information needed to read a map and a symbol is a picture or icon used to show a geographical feature.	A four-figure grid reference contains four numbers, which are eastings and northings.	A six-figure grid reference contains six numbers and is more precise than a four-figure grid reference.	The geographical term 'relief' describes the difference between the highest and lowest elevations of an area. Relief maps show the contours of land based on shape and height. Contour lines show the elevation of the land, joining places of the same height above sea level.	A geographical area can be understood by using grid references and lines of latitude and longitude to identify position, contour lines to identify height above sea level and map symbols to identify physical and human features.
Comparison	Compare and contrast		Places can have different climates, weather, food, religions, culture, wildlife, transport and amenities.	Places can be compared by size, amenities, transport, location, weather and climate.	A non-European country is a country outside the continent of Europe. For example, the USA, Australia, China and Egypt are non-European countries. European countries include the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Spain.	Geographical features created by nature are called physical features. Geographical features created by humans are called human features.	A physical feature is one that forms naturally and can change over time due to physical processes. An aspect of a physical feature might be the type of mountain.	The seven continents (Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America) vary in size, shape, location, population and climate.	Climate is the long-term pattern of weather conditions found in a particular place.
Significance	Significant places		A place can be important because of its location, use buildings or landscape.	A place can be important because of its location, buildings, landscape, community, culture and history. Some buildings are important because they tell us something about the past.	A significant place is a location that is important to a community or society. Places can also be significant because of religious or historic events that may have happened in the past near the location. Significant places can also include monuments.	Significant volcanoes include Mount Vesuvius in Italy. Significant earthquake-prone areas include the San Andreas Fault in North America and the Ring of Fire.	Significant mountain ranges include the Himalayas, Urals, Andes, Alps, Atlas. Significant rivers include the Mississippi, Nile, Thames, Amazon and Mersey.	Farming challenges for developing countries include poor soil, disease, drought and lack of markets. Education, fair trade and technology are ways in which these challenges can be reduced.	North America, Europe and East Asia are the main industrial regions of the world due to a range of factors.

