

What are the fundamental concepts of geography?

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
- understand the processes that give rise to key physical and human geographical features of the world
- are competent in the geographical skills needed to:

As students of geography, pupils are supported in developing a broad range of personal and academic skills that enable them to investigate and analyse complex ideas and concepts.

The key concepts explored in geography include:

Environments - Students examine a variety of environments, both natural and cultural, each with unique characteristics and features.

Perspectives - Students are introduced to different bodies of thought, theories, and worldviews that influence how people interpret the world. They develop an understanding of:

Processes - Students explore sequences of natural and cultural actions that shape and transform environments, places, and societies.

Interaction - Students investigate how different elements of geographical study are interconnected. Interaction involves the mutual influence of natural and cultural environments.

Landscapes - Students explore how landscapes are the visible result of interactions between natural and cultural factors.

Change - Students study the ever-present nature of change in both physical and human geography. This includes changes driven by:

Sustainability - Students learn the importance of sustainable thinking and behaviour, focusing on meeting current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs.

Building Skills for the Future - By engaging with these concepts, Geography students develop essential skills such as critical thinking, data analysis, problem-solving, and effective communication.

What topics do the students study in each year?

| Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Map Skills | Coastal Landscapes | Tectonic Hazards |
| Tropical Rainforest | Settlement and Urbanisation | China |
| Economic Development | Weather and climate | Glaciation |
| Kenya Tourism | USA | UK landscapes |

| Year 10 | Year 11 |
|---|--|
| Landscapes of the UK: Physical landscapes Geomorphic processes River landscapes Coastal landscapes | Ecosystems of the planet: Global Ecosystems Tropical Rainforest Coral Reef |
| People of the UK: UK's trading partners Diversity in the UK Development in the UK UK's population Urban trends in the UK | People of the Planet: Global development Uneven Development Ethiopia Global urbanisation |
| UK Environmental challenges: Extreme weather Resources Ecosystems Energy sources | Environmental Threats: Climate change Atmospheric circulation Extreme weather events |
| Geographical skills and fieldwork | Geographical skills and fieldwork |

| Year 12 | Year 13 |
|--|--|
| Coastal Landscapes | Earths Life Support Systems (Ecosystems) |
| Changing Spaces, making places (Urban) | Global Migration |
| Hazardous earth | Power and Borders |
| Geographical Skills Independent Investigation | Disease Dilemmas Geographical Skills |

What key skills will students develop over time?

Studying geography develops a versatile skill set that prepares students to excel in various careers and adapt to a rapidly changing world. By integrating knowledge from both the natural and social sciences geography fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, and practical competencies that are highly valued by employers.

1. Data Analysis and Interpretation:
2. Problem-Solving and Decision-Making:
3. Communication Skills:

4. Research and Investigative Abilities:
5. Teamwork and Collaboration:

How are all pupils learning in geography?

The geography curriculum is designed to support students of all abilities by integrating the principles of the EEF (Education Endowment Foundation) drivers, ensuring a structured yet challenging learning environment that fosters progress for all. Students develop a wide range of essential skills and knowledge, including:

- **Subject Knowledge and Understanding:**
Deep insights into challenges facing society and the environment, equipping students to engage meaningfully with contemporary global issues.
- **Specialist Skills:**
Proficiency in statistical, spatial, and environmental analysis, along with both quantitative and qualitative research methods.
- **Independent Thinking:**
Strong analytical and research skills, critical thinking, and the ability to evaluate evidence across both social and natural sciences.
- **Data Literacy and Communication:**
Expertise in collecting, interpreting, and presenting complex data to a variety of audiences effectively and confidently.
- **Problem-Solving and Perspective-Taking:**
A determination to tackle problems and explore major global issues at multiple scales, considering diverse viewpoints.
- **Collaboration and Teamwork:**
Experience working in teams, particularly during field research, fostering interpersonal and cooperative skills.
- **Curiosity and Investigative Skills:**
A keen interest in understanding how the world works, exploring contemporary issues, and engaging with different cultures.
- **Positive Attitudes and Lifelong Learning:**
A proactive and collaborative approach to learning, emphasizing resilience, adaptability, and respect for others.

Through this comprehensive approach, geography prepares students not only for academic success but also for making informed and impactful contributions to society.

How are pupils assessed in geography?

The geography curriculum is designed to engage students with new content while developing and refining their geographical skills through diverse and interactive methods. This approach supports robust and varied opportunities for assessing student progress.

Students' understanding and skills are evaluated through a range of methods, including:

- **Formal Written Assessments:** Testing knowledge and application of key geographical concepts.
- **Classroom Discussions:** Encouraging active participation and critical thinking.
- **Classroom Debates:** Fostering analytical skills and the ability to present arguments effectively.
- **Investigative and Research Tasks:** Promoting independent inquiry and problem-solving.
- **Decision-Making Exercises:** Enhancing evaluative skills and real-world application of geography.
- **Creative and Design Tasks:** Encouraging innovative thinking and geographical expression.

All students receive detailed written feedback on their performance, accompanied by structured opportunities to review and reflect on their work. This reflective process helps students identify strengths, address areas for improvement, and set goals for further progress.

Student work is marked and reviewed using the CAN system, focusing on where the work Complete, Accurate and Neat and making corrections developing good practice for the future.

How can pupils progress in geography?

The Key Stage 3 geography curriculum introduces students to key geographical processes and human interactions through engaging and creative activities. It lays a strong foundation for GCSE studies, with topics serving as a bridge to deeper exploration at Key Stages 4 and 5.

GCSE Geography provides a solid pathway to A-level Geography, complementing science A-levels or BTECs by linking natural and social sciences. At A-level, geography is a highly regarded subject, offering academic rigor and connections to diverse Higher Education courses and careers.

Geography opens doors to a wide range of careers, including:

- Urban and regional planning
- Environmental management and consultancy
- Geospatial analysis (GIS)
- Education and academia
- International development
- Business and logistics
- Policy-making and public administration

How can pupils enrich their knowledge and understanding in geography?

Local and National Visits:

- Trips to places like Muncaster Castle, St. Bees, and the Holderness Coast allow students to study physical and human geography in real-world settings, such as coastal processes, heritage and economic change.
- Visits to Leeds and Manchester provide insights into urban development, regeneration, and economic geography.

International Trips:

- The 2025 trip to Iceland offers a unique opportunity to study volcanic landscapes, geothermal energy, and glacial processes in one of the most geologically fascinating countries.

Theatre Trips:

- Linking Geography to cultural aspects by attending plays or performances that explore themes like environmental issues and social change.

Wider School Participation

- Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award:
Geography staff's involvement in DofE provides students with opportunities to enhance skills like map reading, orienteering, and teamwork in outdoor environments.
- Ski Trips:
Participation in ski trips allows students to explore mountain environments and understand tourism and sustainable practices in alpine regions.

Enrichment Activities

- In-School Enrichment Programs: The Geography staff play an active role in the running of circuit training and mountain biking during enrichment.