



GEOGRAPHY

Why is the study of Geography important?





Geography is the study of Earth's landscapes, peoples, places and environments. It is about the world in which we live and its study will make you question how and why the world is changing, globally and locally but also, how human actions can complicate and exacerbate natural changes and events. Geography will encourage you to think about the vast number of physical and human connections that exist within our world and about the pressures that the world's natural environments face. From Year 7 you will have the exciting opportunity to understand the natural processes that affect millions of people every year like volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and how climate change is affecting populations and how population change is itself affecting different countries. Geography allows you to study a wide range of topics from across the globe and enables you to develop a wide range of skills that you will use to interpret the world around you and understand how we can make changes that will have implications on a variety of scales, from your local area to the whole world! Your study of geography will encourage you to think deeply and help you more effectively make links to other subjects like Science and Maths, great life skills that all universities and employers will appreciate.

Across your study you will explore Physical, Human and Environmental Geography. You will gain an understanding of why countries are at different levels of development and the impact that this has on the populations and environments of those countries. You will understand the physical and human factors that cause and contribute to natural disasters and the importance of natural resources, ecosystems and economic links around the world. Lessons will provide a wide range of opportunities for group work, role play, independent research and will encourage you to challenge yourself to suggest solutions to problems faced around the world. Geography is both creative and problem solving and your geography classroom will be brimming with opportunities to explore the world through images, film clips, stories of personal experiences and of course, maps! You will engage with questions such as 'Does aid help or hinder the development of lower income countries?' 'Why do people live in dangerous places? How can we be more environmentally friendly?' 'Why are global businesses important? How can the quality of life of the poorest people in the world be improved? You will have the chance to ask questions about what is changing in the UK and about your local environment, to study it more closely by collecting data and analysing it to find out what it tells you. Seems challenging - you are going to love it! Geography will expand your mind!

We look at 5 core concepts across the geography curriculum:



Sustainability – Sustainability is about understanding how to meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations to meet their own needs. In practice this affects many aspects of geography. They must understand this concept and how it relates to long term aid or the use of renewable energies.

 <p>A word cloud with 'Climate Change' as the largest word. Other visible words include 'CO2', 'Mitigation', 'Adaptation', 'Development', 'Sustainability', 'Industry', 'Quality of Life', and 'Favelas'.</p>	<p>Climate Change - Understanding the causes and potential consequences of global climate change on people and the environment are crucial in implementing strategies to reduce the threat of climate change in the future. This is a core concept that has become increasingly important in student's lives and it is vital that they have a good understanding of it. As well as studying a whole unit on climate change, they will also consider the concept through resource management, ecosystems, natural hazards and development.</p>
 <p>A word cloud with 'Human and Physical Interactions' as the largest words. Other visible words include 'Development', 'Adaptation', 'Exploitation', 'Mitigation', 'Change', 'Management', 'Industry', and 'Prediction'.</p>	<p>Human/Physical interactions – Geography fundamentally comprises of human geography and physical geography. However, it is rare that these two sit or work in isolation of each other. This core concept is concerned with the interactions between the two, whether it is the impact of deforestation on the rainforest or of natural hazards on human settlements.</p>
 <p>A word cloud with 'Physical Processes' as the largest words. Other visible words include 'Orbital', 'Swath', 'Formation', 'Erosion', 'Deposition', 'Weathering', 'Climatic', and 'Processes'.</p>	<p>Physical processes – The fundamental building blocks are the physical processes that shape our landscapes and the physical features that sit within them. Students should have a clear knowledge of erosion, transportation and deposition and the conditions that cause them. They should then be able to link this to particular features e.g. transportation and deposition forming a spit or erosion forming a waterfall. In addition, students should be aware of the processes of weathering and climatic processes that also impact to cause tropical storms and extreme weather.</p>
 <p>A word cloud with 'Development' as the largest word. Other visible words include 'Intermediate Technology', 'Multiplier Effect', 'Sustainability', 'Industry', 'Aid', 'Health', 'Quality of Life', and 'Favelas'.</p>	<p>Development – This concept ultimately underpins many of the issues that students will face in Key Stage 3. The ideas of poverty and inequality, the reasons behind them, impact of them and solutions to them will be covered. Students should have a clear understanding of quality of life and what it means in different parts of the world and how HICs are so very different to LICs. How does this impact on a country's readiness for a natural hazard, or their ability to have food security? It affects population, migration and whether or not CO2 is being released at an increasing rate in a country. In addition, students should have a clear idea of the multiplier effect (both positive and negative) and how this clearly shows how a country develops.</p>

What will you know and understand from your study of Geography?

- The basic physical systems that affect everyday life e.g. our weather and climate, plate tectonics, water and nutrient cycles, wind and atmospheric currents. You will learn the location of places and the physical and cultural characteristics of different places.
- You will improve your understanding of why our world is so interconnected and how technology is changing the geography of the planet.
- We will understand the geography of the past and how geography has played important roles in the way people develop their ideas to understand places and environments.
- You will develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of a wide range and scale of places including your local area, your country and the world so that you can understand where places are, why events happen and what impact the location of these events might have.
- You will be able to explain how the processes of human (e.g. urbanisation) and physical systems (e.g. weather and climate) have organised and sometimes changed the surface of the Earth.
- You will understand and recognise the spatial organisation of population globally and in the UK.
- You will use your understanding of spatial distributions at all scales — local and worldwide — in order to understand the complex connectivity of people and places.
- You will learn to evaluate sensible evidence driven judgements about how people and the environment interact.
- You will be able to apply your knowledge in order to suggest wise management decisions about how the planet's resources should be used.
- You will gain a better understanding of global interdependence and to become a better global citizen.

What skills will the study of Geography teach you?

You are a citizen in this world and you need to know how to analyse a variety of sources of information, to be able to use data to identify key patterns. It will teach you to...

- interpret maps, diagrams, photographs and satellite images
- see patterns in our everyday lives and in the environments around us
- use Geographical Information Systems to explain geographic information
- collect primary data through fieldwork and about what secondary data is relevant and reliable
- present data using a wide variety of maps, graphs and diagrams
- understand how modelling can help us predict changes
- develop detailed written arguments that incorporate evidence
- solve problems
- use a variety of maths skills to help interpret geographical information and explain events and patterns
- recognise the strengths and weaknesses of data
- evaluate the usefulness of information

- assess the effectiveness of different data collection methods and data presentation techniques
- write strong arguments and use evidence to convince others of your viewpoint

How does your study of Geography support your study in other subjects?

Study of any subject in our curriculum takes full advantage of links with other subject areas- we term these as interdisciplinary links and we make the most of them because we know that deep learning requires the transference of knowledge and skills from one topic of learning to another. Once you can transfer your learning across topics and subject areas then you are really mastering what you know and how to apply your understanding and skills.

Geography touches on so many other subjects such as Science, where there are lots of overlaps with topics like ecosystems, tectonics and climate change. Our links with Maths include the use of graphical and statistical skills to analyse and interpret data so we can see patterns that we can explain. Geography shares the use and interpretation of texts and the development of written skills with English, and with History, the use of sources and the interrogation of them to consider whether they are reliable and how best to use them to back up our arguments. Geography is the perfect subject to link together the 'arts' with the Sciences. You will learn methods of thinking and research that are widely applicable to other subject areas which will help to develop your thinking in all subjects.

How can you deepen your understanding of Geography?

Geography is the perfect subject to cover key geography events globally and in the UK such as World Clean-up Day, World Fair Trade Day, Fairtrade Fortnight and Earth Day. The geography department offers lots of other great opportunities for you to really engage with this fabulous subject. Across Key Stage 3, students engage in fieldwork activities to collect data for enquiries around like whether we can have wind turbines to help reduce climate change or how microclimates change around the site. We follow any amazing geographical events that occur in the news so that if there is an eruption, an earthquake or hurricane, you get the chance to watch it and learn about it.

In GCSE geography, we encourage students to join the fieldwork opportunities that are on offer including to the Holderness Coast to observe coastal landforms and processes and to Pontefract, our case study of a major UK urban area.

The revision website, geography.outwood.com, provides a rich resource of geography information for you to use to support your studies including revision guides, links to case studies and examples for each unit, key word glossaries, video tutorials and much more.

How can geography support your future?

Of course we encourage you to continue studying this fantastic subject at GCSE! We know that choice and personal interest are important aspects of worthy study. Whether you have continued your study of geography into GCSE or not you will have gained access to this enriching subject and its study will have taught you to think differently and deeply. The very fact that geography develops such a wide range of transferable skills such as analysis, interpretation and the use of statistical techniques to explore a wide range of data will help your future applications be they for colleges, universities, apprenticeships or employment. Geography is offered at most prestigious universities either as a single honours or a joint honours subject studied alongside other disciplines e.g. BA Geography and Economics, Geography and Sociology, Geography and Management (University of Leeds), BA Geography (University of Sheffield). Students of Geography will usually continue to study physical and human aspects of the subject but you can then opt for units that particularly interest you.

The study of geography can be a springboard into a huge range of career choices because of the transferable skills you will develop. Students who study geography are among the most employable people and according to the UK's higher education statistics, geography graduates are among the least likely to be unemployed after their degree. Of specific note are the analytical and IT based Geographical skills that geography students develop.

Geographers fulfil a wide range of careers; financial services, planning, working in the environment, environmental law, environmental engineering, travel and tourism, international charities, retail, international relations, GIS, management, environmental Health Technician, transport, GIS officer, volcanologist, ecologist environmental Adviser, GIS Technician/ Analyst, Data Quality Officer.

GEOGRAPHY CURRICULUM PROGRESSION PATHWAY AT OUTWOOD ACADEMY CITY FIELDS

	HalfTerm 1	HalfTerm 2	HalfTerm 3	HalfTerm 4	HalfTerm 5	HalfTerm 6
Year 7	Why is our world amazing?	Is there a development gap? Why are ecosystems so different?	How wild is our weather? Is there a development gap?	Why are ecosystems so different? How wild is our weather?	What happens when the land meets the sea?	How diverse is Africa?
Year 8	How am I linked to climate change?	Why are rivers important?		Is Asia the most diverse and dynamic continent?		What's the problem with resources?
Year 9	How Risky are Natural Hazards?	Why is the Middle East an important world region?	Is Russia a prisoner of its geography?	How does ice change the world?	Are oceans there to be exploited?	Designing a local fieldwork project
Year 10	Unit 1: Living World	Unit 2: Resource Management	Unit 1: Natural Hazards and Tectonics	Unit 2: Urban Issues	Unit 1: Weather Hazards and Climate Change	Unit 1: Rivers Unit 3: Human Fieldwork

Year 11	Unit 1: Coasts	Unit 3: Physical Fieldwork Unit 2: Economic Change	Unit 2: Economic Change	Unit 3: Issues Evaluation	Unit 3: Unseen Fieldwork	Revision
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