

Geography Disciplinary Knowledge Progression

	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Geographical enquiry	Begin to explore the natural world and the local environment. Observe and describe immediate surroundings.	Ask simple geographical questions (e.g., What is it like here?)	Develop observational skills to study local geography.	Ask more developed geographical questions (e.g., Why do people live here?)	Explain similarities and differences between regions using evidence.	Use and interpret more complex geographical data (e.g., climate graphs) Evaluate sources of geographical information	Think critically and explain cause and effect in geographical patterns. Present coherent arguments using geographical vocabulary and data.
Recognise human and physical features	Develop simple locational awareness (e.g., know where their home/school is). Discuss features of their local environment, both human and physical. Use basic geographical vocabulary (hill, river, house, shop).	Understand basic human and physical features (e.g. beach, city) Describe features of their local environment, both human and physical, with words and pictures.	Compare human and physical geography in two contrasting places. Use aerial photos and plan perspectives to recognize landmarks.	Start to analyse patterns in geography (e.g. settlement near rivers)	Begin to think critically about environmental impact.	Understand and explain spatial variation and geographical processes. Apply knowledge to real-world issues (e.g., deforestation).	Consider multiple perspectives on geographical issues. Use geography to debate and justify viewpoints (e.g., urbanisation, migration)
Maps, Atlases and Globes	Use simple maps and positional language (next to, behind, near).	Use maps and globes to identify places (e.g., UK, seas, continents). Begin to make and use simple maps.	Begin to use keys and symbols on simple maps. Know how to use simple maps to make and follow simple routes.	Begin to use digital mapping tools. Know that key features of a locality can be identified by using a map. Know some basic OS map symbols. To be able to begin to use 2 figure grid references.	Interpret a range of maps, including OS maps. Know how to find the same place on a globe and in an atlas.	Use 6-figure grid references and contour lines. Know how to use 4 figure grid references confidently.	Know key symbols used on an OS map.
Fieldwork	Know that information can be drawn from a simple map. Know how to use simple observational equipment to support exploration of the natural environment	Know that you can use different sources to find out about a local area – Google Maps/local person/first-hand observation Know what they like and dislike about their local area.	Know how to ask and answer geographical questions, such as: what is this place like? What or who else will I see in this place? What do people do in this place?	Use fieldwork to gather human and physical features	Conduct simple fieldwork and present findings. Know how to ask and answer questions about the physical and human characteristics of a location.	Know how to find answers to their own geographical questions. Know how to use different types of sampling (random and systematic) to observe, measure and record the human and physical features in the local area.	Synthesize fieldwork, maps, and data to support geographical conclusions. Know how to choose the best way to collect information needed and decide the appropriate units of measure. *Know how to make careful

						Know how to record these results in a variety of ways	measurements and use data. Know how to use maps, Ariel photos, plans and web resources to describe a locality.
Directions	Understand how to move in different directions (forwards, backwards, sideways)	Begin to use directional language (e.g., near/far, left/right)	Use simple compass directions (N, S, E, W)	Use 4-point compass and basic grid references. Know and identify NSEW on a map. Know the 8 points of a compass.	Use 8-point compass directions and 4-figure grid references. Know and use the 8 points of a compass, four-figure grid references, symbols and keys to communicate knowledge of the UK and the wider world.	Know how to plan a journey to a place in another part of the world taking account of distance and time.	Know how to use 8 compass points, 6 figure grid references, symbols and keys.