Geography Progression

Note: This curriculum content has been adapted from units of work created by Cornerstones Maestro curriculum.

Reception Geography

Unit title	Area of	Core	Unit Description	Core Knowledge	Core Vocabulary	
	Study	Concepts				
Town and Country	Understanding the world	People culture and communities; The natural world.	Children learn about the human and physical geography of cities, towns and villages. This includes thinking about the geographical features of where we live.	 Know that a map is a drawing of an area of land or sea. It shows features, including roads, rivers, woods, parks and buildings. Know that a map shows features, including roads, rivers, woods, parks and buildings. Know that the local environment has lots of different features including rivers, roads, lakes, woods, canals and railways. Know that places where people live together is a community, and common features of a community include places where people live, study and work. Larger communities, where many thousands of people live and work are called towns and cities. Know that smaller communities in the countryside are often called villages. 	animal, city, community, country, countryside, Earth, journey, map, people, school, United Kingdom, village	
Big Wide World	Understanding the world	Place and location knowledge	Children learn about the continents of the world, including learning to name countries. In this unit, children also find out about oceans and seas.	 Know that people live in and visit lots of different places around the world. Know that globes and maps can show us the location of different places around the world. A globe is a 3-D model of the Earth. Maps show 2-D images of places. Know that the weather, environment and living things are different in different places around the world. Know that the ocean is a body of salt water that covers over two thirds of the surface of the Earth. Know that climates and environments are different, depending on their location on Earth. 	animal, climate, desert, Earth, environment, forest, globe, habitat, land, map, mountain, ocean, plant, river, savannah, sea, travel, weather, woodland,	
•	n field work ski				Look, notice, observe,	
Ask and answer questions about the local area.						
	 Find out about the human and physical features of the local area. Take a journey around a familiar environment and notice geographical features. 					
				eatures.		
-	•		ut another location.			
 Read ar 	nd discuss stories t	o find out about o	ther places.			

Year 1 Geography

Unit title	Area of Study	Core Concepts	Unit Description	Core Knowledge	Core Vocabulary
Our Wonderful World	Geography of the world	Recognising man-made (human) and natural (physical) geography on maps, and using directional language.	Children learn about physical and human features, maps, cardinal compass points, and positional and directional language. They learn about the equator, hemispheres and continents and the countries and capital cities of the UK.	 Know that a map is a picture or drawing of an area of land or sea that can show human and physical features. Know that a location is a place or the position of something. Know that direction is the way you travel to get somewhere. Know that a continent is a very large area of land; and the world's seven continents are Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America. Know that oceans are very large bodies of salt water; and the five oceans are the Arctic, Atlantic, Indian, Pacific and Southern Ocean. Know that a country is a large area of land in which people live and ruled by the same government or ruler and follow the same laws as each other. 	Continents (Africa, Antarctica, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America and South America); oceans (Pacific Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean and Arctic Ocean); cardinal directions (north, south, east, west), compass.
Bright Lights, Big City	Geography of the United Kingdom	Location and place knowledge. Children develop an understanding of where they live, where they are in relation to the UK and different parts of the UK.	Children learn about human settlements, including cities. Children learn to name cities in the United Kingdom, including London, and use maps to find out about physical and human features of cities.	 Know that a map has symbols to show where things are located. Know that the United Kingdom (UK) is a union of four countries: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Know that a capital city is a city that is home to the government and ruler of a country. Know that the capital city of England is London, the capital city of Northern Ireland is Belfast, the capital city of Scotland is Edinburgh, the capital city of Wales is Cardiff. Know that human features of an environment are man-made. Know that physical features of an environment have been made by natural processes. A landmark is a physical or human feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen from far away. A landmark can help you describe your location. Know that directions can help people to plan a journey from one place to another. Know that cities, towns and villages of the United Kingdom have many different human features. 	Countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom (England, London; Northern Ireland, Belfast; Scotland, Edinburgh; Wales, Cardiff); human geography (town, city, village, settlement, shops, schools, landmark, monument); and physical geography (e.g., cliff, forest, hill, mountain, river, sea).
Coastline	Contrasting localities	Place knowledge, including identifying human and physical features of environments.	Children learn about coastal localities, including studying a nearby coastal town. Children find out about the physical and human features of a seaside town.	 Know that the United Kingdom is an island surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, English Channel, Irish Sea and North Sea. Know that a compass is an instrument that is used for finding a direction; the four cardinal points on a compass are north, south, east and west. Know that 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. Know that erosion is a physical process, which can cause the change over time to an environment or place. Erosion is caused by wind and water (e.g., waves, floods, rainfall). Know that tourism is an industry that helps people travel away from home for pleasure. 	beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season, weather, port, harbour, shore, tourism, hotel, restaurant and shop.

Year 1 Enquiry skills and vocabulary

- Know how to use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as the countries, continents and oceans.
- Know how to 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.
- Know how to 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.
- Know how to use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features.

atlas, map, globe, symbol, direction, compass points, aerial photographs, human and physical features, environment, landmark.

Year 2 Geography

Unit title	Area of	Core	Unit Description	Core Knowledge	Core Vocabulary
Street Detectives	Local Geography	Human geography. Place and location (maps and directions).	Children learn about our local community, looking at houses old and new; making maps and plans of the streets around us, planning our routes.	 Recap: Know that 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/icon used to show a geographical feature. Know that an aerial photograph can be vertical (taken directly from above) or oblique (taken from above and to the side). Know that an environment or place can change over time due to a geographical process, such as erosion, or human activity, such as housebuilding. Know that human features are human-made and include castles, towers, schools, hospitals, bridges, shops, tunnels, monuments, airports and roads. People use human features in different ways. For example, an airport can be used for work or leisure and a harbour can be used for industry or travel. Know that data can be recorded in different ways, including tables, charts and pictograms. Know that the local environment can be improved by reducing litter, planting flowers and improving amenities. 	Community, feature, industry, key, symbol, litter, material, route, journey, direction, property, settlement, use, aerial photograph, map, atlas.
Let's Explore the World	World Geography	Location knowledge. Physical geography.	Children learn about atlases, maps and cardinal compass points. They learn about the characteristics of the four countries of the UK and find out why there are hot, temperate and cold places around the world. They also compare England to Somalia.	 Recap: Know that an ocean is a large sea. Know that the United Kingdom is surrounded by water, including an ocean (Atlantic Ocean) and seas. Know that the Northern Hemisphere is north of the equator and the Southern Hemisphere is south of the equator. Know that the North Pole is the most northern point on Earth and the South Pole is the most southern point on Earth. Know that hot places are close to the equator and cold places are far away from the equator. Know that temperate places are between the hot and cold places. A temperate place is never extremely hot or extremely cold. The UK has a temperate climate. Know that England has many famous physical features, such as the White Cliffs of Dover in the south, Cheddar Gorge in the west and lakes and mountains in the Lake District. Know core facts about a contrasting location, such as Somalia – which is situated on the Equator and is very hot, and the capital city is called Mogadishu. 	Climate, fieldwork, human/physical feature, moorland, observation. Globe, equator, Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere, temperate climates, temperature, seasons, physical features of England, Somalia, Africa, Mogadishu.

Year 2 Enquiry skills and vocabulary (continued from Year 1)

- Know how to use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as the countries, continents and oceans.
- Know how to 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.
- Know how to 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.
- Know how to use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features.

atlas, map, globe, symbol, direction, compass points, aerial photographs, human and physical features, environment, landmark.

Year 3 Geography

Unit title	Area of Study	Core Concepts	Unit Description	Core Knowledge	Core Vocabulary
One Planet, Our World	World Geography	Place and location, including the location of continental plates.	Children learn to locate countries and cities, and use grid references, compass points and latitude and longitude. They learn about the layers of the Earth and plate tectonics and discover the five major climate zones.	 Know that four-figure grid references are used to locate a grid square on a map. To find a four-figure grid reference, you follow the horizontal axis, called the easting, from west to east, and then the vertical axis, called the northing, from south to north, until they meet at the bottom left-hand corner of the square you want to reference. The easting followed by the northing makes a four-figure grid reference. Know that there are five major climate zones on Earth: the polar zone (is the coldest), the temperate zone (has warm summers and cool winters), the Mediterranean zone (has hot summers and mild winters), the desert zone (is the hottest) and the tropical zone (is hot and wet all year round). Know that lines of latitude are imaginary horizontal lines that span the globe. Lines of longitude are imaginary vertical lines that span the globe. Lines of latitude tells us how far north or south a location is. Lines of longitude tells us how east or west a location is. Know the cardinal and intercardinal compass points. 	Cardinal point, intercardinal point, compass, climate, climate zone, easting, northing, four-figure grid reference, latitude, longitude, Prime Meridian, north-east, south-east, south-west, and north-west.
Rocks, Relics and Rumbles	Physical geography	Physical processes leading to natural changes over time.	Children learn about the features and characteristics of Earth's layers, including a detailed exploration of volcanic, tectonic and seismic activity.	 Know that the Earth is made of four different layers: inner core, outer core, mantle and crust. Know that there are three main types of rock found in the Earth's crust. They are sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic; and the properties of each. Know that convergent tectonic plates push together. Divergent tectonic plates pull apart. Transform tectonic plates slide past each other. Know that the Ring of Fire is a large area around the Pacific Ocean where many earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur. Know how volcanoes are formed and where they are located and why. Children can give examples including Mount Vesuvius in Italy, Laki in Iceland and Krakatoa in Indonesia. Know that a volcano is a mountain or hill with an opening in the Earth's crust that allows magma, gas and ash to reach the surface. Volcanoes are either active, dormant or extinct. Know that Volcanic eruptions are an example of significant geographical activity and can destroy habitats, homes and businesses and can change the landscape. 	mantle, crust, core, magma, lava. Molten, tectonic plate, sedimentary, igneous, metamorphic, geologist

Year 3 Enquiry skills and vocabulary

- Know how to use a growing range of maps, atlases, globes to locate countries, counties, continents, capital cities.
- Know and use the eight points of a compass, four-figure grid references, symbols and key to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world.
- Know that fieldwork includes making observations, measurements, recordings and presenting the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including presenting data and describing locations using maps.

Political maps, climate maps, longitude and latitude, observe, monitor, measure, record, present, grid references, compass directions.

Unit title	Area of	Core	Unit Description	Core Knowledge	Core Vocabulary
	Study	Concepts			
Investigating our World	World and UK geography	Physical geography including vegetation belts and biomes. Human geography including transport connections.	Children learn about worldwide time zones and study interconnected climate zones, vegetation belts and biomes. Children learn about human geography and capital cities worldwide before looking at the UK motorway network and settlements.	 Know that Cardinal and intercardinal compass points can be used to describe the relationship of features to each other. Know that people use map symbols, six-figure grid references and compass directions to analyse and compare places and features on Ordnance Survey and other maps. Know that the Prime (or Greenwich) Meridian is an imaginary line that divides the Earth into eastern and western hemispheres. Know that the time at Greenwich is called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Know that time zones are distinguished by the longitude, with each time zone that is 15 degrees to the west of Greenwich is another hour earlier than GM; and each time zone 15 degrees to the east is another hour later. Know that climate zones are areas with distinct climates, weather patterns, latitude, plants and animals. Know that vegetation belts are areas where certain species of plant grow. Know that biomes are large areas that share similar climates, vegetation belts and animal species. They also include aquatic areas. 	valley, warm, contour, humid, height, coastal, evaporation, precipitation, condensation, hemisphere, productivity, native/ indigenous, natural resources, sustainable, man-made materials, climate zones, vegetation belts, biomes, weathering/erosion, time zones, hemisphere, natural disaster, tropical
Road Trip USA!	World geography	Place and location, including understanding position and direction	Children use map skills to navigate your way around some of its most famous landmarks and send a postcard home to ask the question 'Do you wish you were here?'	 Know that an atlas is a collection of maps and information that shows geographical features, topography, boundaries, climatic, social and economic statistics of an area. Know that the North American continent includes the countries of the USA, Canada and Mexico as well as the Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. Know that The Tropic of Cancer is 23 degrees north of the equator and Tropic of Capricorn is 23 degrees south of the equator. Know that a physical feature is one that forms naturally and can change over time due to physical processes, such as erosion and weathering. Know the name and some of the key features of physical geographic landmarks in the USA, including the Mississippi River, the Rocky Mountains, Grand Canyon, Everglades National Park, Old Faithful Geyser, Lake Superior and Monument Valley. 	Distance, scale, grid reference, inland, valley, mountain, geyser, weathering, erosion, natural processes, natural disasters, mountain spring, hemisphere, Tropic of Capricorn, Tropic of Cancer, natural resources, hemisphere.

Year 4/5 Enquiry skills and vocabulary

- Know how to use a growing range of maps, atlases, globes to locate countries, counties, continents, capital cities.
- Know and use the eight points of a compass, four-figure grid references, symbols and key to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world.
- Know that fieldwork includes making observations, measurements, recordings and presenting the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including presenting data and describing locations using maps.

Political maps, climate maps, longitude and latitude, observe, monitor, measure, record, present, grid references, compass directions.

Year 4/5 Geography (Cycle B)

Unit title	Area of	Core	Unit Description	Core Knowledge	Core Vocabulary
	Study	Concepts			
Interconnected World	Place knowledge	Human geography	Children learn about the tropics and the countries, climates and culture of North and South America. Children identify physical features in the United Kingdom and learn about the National Rail and canal networks.	 Know that a four-figure grid reference locates a square on a map; and in a four-figure grid reference, the two digit eastings come first, followed by the two digit northings. Know that Britain's railway network links major towns and cities across Britain and are sometimes linked to ferry interchanges and airports. Know that A six-figure grid reference contains six numbers and is more precise than a four-figure grid reference. Know that a canal is a managed waterway. In Britain, canals were built during the Industrial revolution to transport raw goods. Know that the use of canals declined as railways and roads were developed. Today, canals are mostly used for recreation and leisure. Know that the tropics are regions that lie roughly in the middle of the globe between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. Know that the Tropic of Cancer is 23 degrees north of the equator and Tropic of Capricorn is 23 degrees south of the equator. Know the name and location of countries in the continents of North America and South America. Know that countries in the continents of North and South America have contrasting climates, which means that the typical weather conditions can be very different. 	atlas, canal, cardinal point, climate, compass, continent, direction, Earth, equator, four/six-figure grid reference, human features, intercardinal points, physical feature, climate (desert, polar, temperate, tundra, tropical, weather, canal, lock, network, function.
Allotment	UK geography	Physical and human geography, including land use.	Children learn about land use, including learning about farms and where food comes from, writing reports on worldwide produce.	 Know that geographical data, such as demographics or economic statistics, can be used as evidence to support conclusions. Know that 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. Know that agricultural land use in the UK can be divided into three main types, arable (growing crops), pastoral (livestock) and mixed (arable and pastoral). Know that an allotment is a small piece of land used to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. Know that a wide variety of crops are farmed in the UK, such as wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, other vegetables, fruits and oilseed rape. Know that a wide variety of livestock are reared on farms in the UK, such as sheep, dairy cattle, beef cattle, poultry and pigs. Know that 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. 	allotment, arable, climate, cloche, community, compost, cutting, fertiliser, germination, greenhouse, harvest, landscape, minibeast, mixed, organic, originate, pastoral, produce (noun), propagate, seasonal food, sustainable food production, seed.

- Know how to use a growing range of maps, atlases, globes to locate countries, counties, continents, capital cities.
- Know and use the eight points of a compass, four-figure grid references, symbols and key to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world.
- Know that fieldwork includes making observations, measurements, recordings and presenting the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including presenting data and describing locations using maps.

Political maps, climate maps, longitude and latitude, observe, monitor, measure, record, present, grid references, compass directions.

Year 5/6 Geography (Cycle A)

Unit title	Area of Study	Core Concepts	Unit Description	Core Knowledge	Core Vocabulary
Frozen Kingdoms	Contrasting location study	Natural processes and physical geography.	Children learn about the characteristics and features of polar regions, including the North and South Poles, and includes a detailed exploration of the environmental factors that shape and influence them.	 Know that Antarctica is the coldest, windiest and driest place on Earth. Know that the polar regions experience the largest differences in daylight, as the effect of the Earths tilt is much more pronounced. Know that the six main physical features of a polar landscape are: iceberg, glacier, mountain, ice field, tundra and boreal forest. Know that climate change effects the water, temperature, greenhouse gases and weather of a biome. Changes in climate affect what can grow and live in an environment. Know that the four main causes of climate change are: fossil fuels, deforestation, habitat destruction, overpopulation and rearing livestock. Know that natural resources include food, minerals, energy sources and water. Know that the distribution of the access to natural resources, cultural influences and economic activity are significant factors in community life in a settlement. 	Antarctic circle, Antarctica, Arctic circle, Arctic region, glacier, ice field, ice sheet, ice shelf, iceberg, permafrost, tundra, longitude and latitude, North Pole, South Pole, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, topography, precipitation, permafrost, ice field, crevasse, boreal forest, global warming, carbon footprint, climate, greenhouse effect, tourism, native, indigenous.
Our Changing World	Change over time	Place and location. Physical and human geography, including natural processes.	Children find out more about map scales, grid references, contour lines and map symbols. They learn about climate change and the importance of global trade.	 Know that Invisible lines of latitude run horizontally around the Earth and show the northerly or southerly position of a geographical area. Know that Invisible lines of longitude run vertically from the North to the South Pole and show the westerly or easterly position of a geographical area. Know that a scale on a map is written as a ratio, for example, 1cm:800km. Know that distances on maps can be measured using grid lines, the scale, a ruler, a finger, string and the scale bar. Know that Ordnance Survey maps use four and six grid references to locate a feature or place. Know that contour lines join points of equal height above sea level and show an area's terrain. Know that Ordnance Survey symbols are used to represent different features on the landscape. Climate change affects the water, temperature, greenhouse gases and weather of a biome. The four main causes of climate change are: burning fossil fuels, deforestation, overpopulation and rearing livestock. Know that climate change can intensify natural weather events such as storms, heatwaves, floods, sandstorms and droughts to make them more extreme and more destructive. 	Disperse, sustainability, renewable, natural resources, biomes, latitude, vegetation belts, longitude, climate zones, distance, conservation, scale, pollution, grid reference, symbols, Southern hemisphere, Tropic of Capricorn, tropical, Tropic of Cancer, equatorial, land use, Equator, latitude, location, pollution, longitude, deforestation

 Know that the poorest countries are the most vulnerable to the effects of extreme weather due to little industry, farming and money and are particularly affected by the impact of climate change.
 Know that developing countries often have widespread poverty and ineffective governments. They cannot prepare as well for extreme weather events and lack the money to recover quickly afterwards.
 Know that the Global Climate Risk Index uses data from countries around the world to analyse which countries are most affected by extreme weather events. Know that natural resource management (NRM) aims to create sustainable ways of using land now and in the future.

Year 5/6 Enquiry skills and vocabulary

- Know how to use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.
- Know and 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.
- Know and 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.

observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features, eight points of a compass, four and sixfigure grid references, map symbols.

Year 5/6 Geography (Cycle B)

Unit title	Area of	Core	Unit Description	Core Knowledge	Core Vocabulary
	Study	Concepts			
Sow, grow and farm	UK geography	Physical and human geography including land use	Children learn about the features and characteristics of land use in agricultural regions across the world, including a detailed exploration of significant environmental areas.	 Know that agricultural land use in the UK can be divided into three main types, arable (growing crops), pastoral (livestock) and mixed (arable and pastoral). Know that an allotment is a small piece of land used to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers. Know that a wide variety of crops are farmed in the UK, such as wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, other vegetables, fruits and oilseed rape. Know that a wide variety of livestock are reared on farms in the UK, such as sheep, dairy cattle, beef cattle, poultry and pigs. Know that a geographical enquiry can help us to understand the physical geography (rivers, coasts, weather and rocks) or human geography (population changes, migration, land use, changes to inner city, urbanisation, developments and tourism) of an area and the impacts on the surrounding environment. Know that the topography of an area intended for agricultural purposes is an important consideration. In particular, the topographical slope or gradient plays a large part in controlling hydrology (water) and potential soil erosion. 	land use, agriculture, topography, climate, soil and farming, food miles, local produce and sustainability.
Darwin's Delights (cross- curricular unit)	World geography	Physical geography including biodiversity	Children develop an understanding of the work of geographers, including collecting and presenting data from a range of sources, including maps and statistical data.	 Know that 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. Know that 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. Know that physical processes give rise to key geographical features of the world, these are interdependent and bring about spatial variation and change over time. Know that geographers use a range of geographical skills to collect and analyse a range of data gathered through fieldwork; interpret a range of sources of information, including maps, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS); communicate information in a variety of ways, including through maps, data and writing at length. 	Disperse, indigenous, sustainability, renewable, survey, population, natural resources, biomes, canopy [trees], latitude, vegetation belts, longitude, climate zones, distance, Prime Meridian, conservation, scale, pollution, grid reference, Northern hemisphere, export, import, symbols, Southern hemisphere, Tropic of Capricorn, tropical, Tropic of Cancer, equatorial, land use, Equator, latitude, location, pollution, longitude, deforestation

Year 5/6 Enquiry skills and vocabulary

- Know how to use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.
- Know and 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.
- Know and 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.

observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features, eight points of a compass, four and sixfigure grid references, map symbols.