



A Guide to Geography at St Marys

How we organise and sequence our Geography learning:

At St. Mary's we follow the pathways set out by the MSNP Trust and follow their unit plans. We then check against the National Curriculum statements to ensure all objectives are covered in each Key Stage.



Geography is taught in alternative weeks to History, so topics are run concurrently over two terms. This ensures that children are receiving Geography teaching throughout the year, therefore embedding learning into the long-term memory more effectively.

Threshold Concepts

We base our teaching around 9 Threshold Concepts or “Big Ideas” that come up repeatedly in our Geography learning.

Over time, the children make links and connections between their learning progressively through each year and develop schema.

Location 	The places around the world that we learn about.
Human Features 	Things in the landscape that are made or built by humans.
Physical Features 	Things in the landscape that are made naturally.
Environments 	The surroundings and conditions that people, animals and plants find themselves in.
Climate 	The long-term pattern of weather in an area.
Maps, data and information 	A map is a picture that shows an area and its landscape in a visual way. Data is information and facts.
Physical processes 	Natural processes that constantly change the earth's physical features such as wind and water erosion.
Interdependence 	The relationships between different groups of people, animals or things and how they interact and rely on each other.
Resources 	The materials available in our environment that are useful to people.

The Threshold Concepts are constantly referred to by teachers and visual posters are on display in classrooms so that children can see the concepts they are learning about.

Recap and Recall

Lessons always start with a recap / recall question(s) on previous learning. This can refer to learning in a previous lesson, topic or previous year group and teachers are encouraged to mix up their recall questions to ensure a wide variety of learning is revisited.

Fieldwork and Resources

Since the ending of Covid restrictions, a focus moving forward is to have more fieldwork opportunities to support our Geography learning. Children are encouraged to use resources such as maps, atlases, digi maps and google earth to support their learning and understanding of key concepts.

The main body of the lesson follows the suggested content set out in the geography pathways and the lesson focus is the question in the pathway. For example:

How are people changing Kenya?

The lessons end with an exit ticket style question which either goes in books or is done as a verbal quiz at the end of the lesson.

Each topic has a knowledge organiser which children use throughout their learning and as a revision aid should they need it.














All knowledge organisers include the threshold concepts, relevant images, key tier 3 vocabulary and maps and data where relevant.

Assessment

Topics end with a POP (proof of progress) task which is set out as part of the curriculum topic

This is an opportunity for pupils to independently show their learning within a topic.

Year 4 - Antarctica

Location	Human Features	Physical Features	Environments	Climate	Maps, Data & Information	Physical Processes	Interdependence	Resources
								
Places	The Antarctic Peninsula The northernmost area of land on Antarctica.	The South Pole The most southerly place in the world and is one of two places in the world upon which the earth's axis is centred.	Ross Ice Shelf The longest ice shelf in the world.	Victoria Land The first known point at which man set foot on land.	Vinson Massif A large mountain range.	 	Useful Vocabulary	
							Biomes Very large areas on the earth's surface, with animals and plants adapting to their environment.	
							Climate Long term weather patterns in an area.	
							Desert A very dry region with little or no precipitation.	
							Glacier Large masses of ice that form over hundreds or thousands of years from layers of compressed snow.	
							Global Warming/Climate Change The warming of the earth and oceans due to increased levels of carbon dioxide in the earth's atmosphere.	
							Iceberg calving The breaking of ice chunks from the edge of a glacier.	
							Ice shelf A thick suspended platform of ice where a glacier flows on to the oceans surface.	
							Latitude Horizontal lines showing distance from the equator.	
							Longitude Vertical lines showing time zones.	
 Emperor penguins live on Antarctic all year round.								
	 Amundsen-Scott station in Antarctica is a scientific research station run by the USA.							
							Key Knowledge	
							Antarctica is the world's southernmost continent. It is the location of the geographic South Pole.	
							The sun does not set in summer or rise in winter.	
							Antarctica is bigger than Europe and almost double the size of Australia.	
							Most of Antarctica is covered in ice over 1.6 kilometres thick (1 mile).	
							Antarctica is home to about 70 percent of the planet's fresh water and 90 percent of the planet's freshwater ice.	
							Sea levels would rise around 60m if all the ice in Antarctica were to melt.	
							Antarctica is mountainous, with the Vinson Massif being the largest range at 13 miles long. Mount Vinson is its highest peak.	
							Antarctica is a biome and is home to many specially adapted animals.	
							The USA's permanently-manned Amundsen-Scott station is on Antarctica.	
							What I will know at the end of the unit	
							Where the South Pole is	How glaciers and ice sheets are made.
							The climate of Antarctica.	How life survives on Antarctica.
							Physical features of Antarctica.	How Antarctica is changing.

Quadrant Quizzes are undertaken at the end of each topic and are then revisited on a termly basis afterwards, therefore ensuring that learning is frequently revisited.