

Geography Key Concepts

Four Substantive Concepts

Substantive knowledge is the subject knowledge and explicit vocabulary used to learn about the content. We have defined substantive concepts that are used as a vehicle to connect the substantive knowledge. These are defined at the start of every study in the Big Idea.

Place Knowledge	Understanding what a place is like, what happens there and how and why it is changing.
Locational Knowledge	The position of a place in relation to other places, on a map, local and global.
Human and physical geography	Human geography, such as: resources, settlement and economic activity. Physical geography, such as: rivers, mountains, volcanoes and biomes.
Geographical skills and fieldwork	Such as reading compasses, reading and drawing maps. Such as observing, recording and presenting features from different areas.

Five Disciplinary Concepts

There are Five Disciplinary Concepts that support children to Think as Geographers:

Place and space	Place - a construct that is defined in terms of what it is like, what happens there and how and why it is changing. Space - the location of points, features or regions in absolute and /or relative terms and the relationships, flows and patterns that connect and / or define them.
Scale and connection	Relationship and interdependence Scale - the 'zoom lens' that enables us to view places from global to local levels. Connection – the relationship between and interdependence on one another.
Physical and human geography	Human geography, such as resources, settlements and economic activity. Physical geography including rivers, mountains, volcanoes and climatic zones.
Environment and sustainability	Environment - What is the environment like? Draws upon human and physical geography to help explain 'how did it get like that?' Makes us think about our ethical consumer habits and choices made about environmental impact. Sustainability means that a process, resource or state can be maintained at a certain level for as long as is needed. What it means to be a responsible citizen, embracing global dimensions within a local setting.
Culture and diversity	The uniqueness of a place. The diversity of the people and animals and the relationship with a place and it's culture.

Each topic includes the main **Substantive** and potential Disciplinary Concepts to be covered.

Continents, oceans, countries and capital cities of UK and seas LOCATIONAL KNOWLEDGE Location, Order Connection	Local area study HUMAN AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Location, Order Environment, Culture Time, Pattern	Local area study HUMAN AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Location, place, map skills and fieldwork	Rivers HUMAN AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Location, Order, Proximity Region, Landscape, System PLACE KNOWLEDGE Location, Environment, Pattern	World cities, biomes and environmental regions HUMAN AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Location Interdependence, Pattern Environment, Settlement Economic	Comparison study of North America, Europe and UK PLACE KNOWLEDGE Location, Connection Economic, Order Pattern, Remoteness
Hot and cold locations HUMAN AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Location, Environment Culture	Comparison of a non-European location with small area of UK (London and Nairobi) PLACE KNOWLEDGE Location, Environment Culture, Connection	UK Study LOCATIONAL KNOWLEDGE Location, Order Environment, Region Landscape	Latitude and longitude LOCATIONAL KNOWLEDGE Location, Position Diversity, Time	4 and 6 figure grid references GEOGRAPHICAL SKILLS AND FIELDWORK Location Absolute position Scale Settlement	Physical processes HUMAN AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Time, Location, Process Connection, Environment System
Local area map work skills GEOGRAPHICAL SKILLS AND FIELDWORK Location, Environment, Patterns	Local area map work skills and introduction to scale GEOGRAPHICAL SKILLS AND FIELDWORK Location, Environment, Pattern, Similar	Revisit Human and physical geography HUMAN AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Location, Place, Culture Connection, Interdependence	Water cycle HUMAN AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Environment, Connection Interaction, Landscape Process, Cycle	Revisit World cities, biomes and environmental regions HUMAN AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Location Interdependence, Pattern Environment, Settlement Economic	Settlements and relationships HUMAN AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Location, Proximity Landscape, Interdependence Lived space PLACE KNOWLEDGE Location, Connection Economic, Order Pattern, Remoteness
	Compare an alternative non-European locality (Village in a rainforest) PLACE KNOWLEDGE Location, Environment Culture, Remoteness	OS maps and scale GEOGRAPHICAL SKILLS AND FIELDWORK Location, Scale, Proximity	Revisit Rivers HUMAN AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY Location, Order, Proximity Region, Landscape, System Map skills GEOGRAPHICAL SKILLS AND FIELDWORK Location, Scale, Proximity	OS maps and fieldwork GEOGRAPHICAL SKILLS AND FIELDWORK Location, Scale, Proximity	Maps and orienteering GEOGRAPHICAL SKILLS AND FIELDWORK Location, Proximity Scale, Connection, Pattern

Although most disciplinary concepts will be touched on briefly in each topic, to enable children to connect and build on previous learning, as well as well prepare for future learning. Each topic will have one or two main disciplinary concepts for staff to focus children’s geographical thinking on.

Key Stage 1	Cycle A				Cycle B		
	Continents, Oceans	Countries, capitals, seas of UK	Hot and cold places	Mapping and fieldwork	Local Study – human and physical feature	Fieldwork and map skills	Compare local area and non-European location
Place and scale							
Scale and connection							
Physical and human geography							
Environment and sustainability							
Culture and diversity							

Key Stage 2	Cycle A			Cycle B			
	Fieldwork – human and physical	UK Study – regions, counties, topography	OS maps and scale	Rivers	Latitude and longitude	Water Cycle	Fieldwork and mapping – environmental regions
Place and scale							
Scale and connection							
Physical and human geography							
Environment and sustainability							
Culture and diversity							

Key Stage 2	Cycle C			Cycle D			
	World countries and biomes	4 and 6 figure grid references	OS Map and fieldwork	Comparison study, UK, Europe and North America	Earthquakes, mountains and volcanoes	Settlements	Orienteering
Place and scale							
Scale and connection							
Physical and human geography							
Environment and sustainability							
Culture and diversity							