Geography Progression of Knowledge

Strand	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Locational Knowledge	Identify UK countries, counties, major cities and surrounding seas.	Locate countries of Europe and key physical features.	Locate North and South America and major global features.	Explain global patterns using latitude, longitude, hemispheres, tropics and time zones.
Place Knowledge	Study the local area and a UK region.	Compare a European region with the UK.	Compare regions in North and South America.	Compare a range of global regions using evidence and data.
Physical Geography	Understand volcanoes, earthquakes and physical features of the UK.	Understand weather, climate and the water cycle.	Understand how climate influences environments and human activity.	Understand biomes, vegetation belts, rivers, mountains and global environmental processes.
Human Geography	Identify settlements and land use within the local area.	Explain how land use changes over time.	Understand population, trade and economic activity in different regions.	Explain trade networks, natural resources, sustainability and human impact on environments.
Environmental Understanding	Recognise how people affect local environments.	Understand environmental change at a regional level.	Consider global environmental issues.	Evaluate sustainability challenges and possible solutions.

Geography Progression of Skills

Skill Area	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Map Skills	Use simple maps, keys and symbols.	Compare different map types.	Use atlases, globes and digital mapping confidently.	Select appropriate mapping tools independently.
Compass Skills	Use 4 and 8-point compass directions.	Apply compass directions during mapwork.	Use compass directions to describe routes and locations.	Apply directional language accurately in geographical enquiries.
Grid References	Begin using simple coordinates.	Use basic grid systems.	Interpret map grids confidently.	Use four and six-figure grid references accurately.
Fieldwork	Observe and record local geographical features.	Gather data using surveys and observations.	Conduct comparative fieldwork and present findings.	Design, undertake and evaluate geographical investigations.
Data Collection	Collect simple geographical information.	Record findings using tables and charts.	Use graphs and digital technologies to present evidence.	Analyse data critically and draw informed conclusions.
Enquiry Skills	Ask simple geographical questions.	Explain similarities and differences between places.	Investigate geographical issues using evidence.	Evaluate evidence, justify opinions and draw conclusions.
Communication	Use basic geographical vocabulary.	Describe patterns and relationships.	Explain geographical processes using appropriate terminology.	Present reasoned geographical arguments using accurate subject vocabulary.

Geography Progression of Vocabulary

Strand	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Locational Knowledge	country, county, city, region, coast, sea	continent, Europe, border, capital city, location, distribution	latitude, longitude, Equator, hemisphere, Tropic of Cancer, Tropic of Capricorn	Prime Meridian, time zone, international, interconnected, global pattern, distribution
Place Knowledge	local area, community, settlement, village	comparison, region, characteristics, similarities, differences	population density, culture, development, migration	urbanisation, globalisation, sustainability, economic development
Human Geography	settlement, land use, population, community	agriculture, industry, tourism, transport, trade	economy, trade link, import, export, natural resource, population density	renewable resource, sustainability, development, urbanisation, migration, globalisation
Physical Geography	volcano, earthquake, magma, lava, tectonic plate, eruption	climate, precipitation, evaporation, condensation, water cycle, river basin	climate zone, tropical, temperate, arid, biome, vegetation belt	mountain range, tributary, source, meander, watershed, ecosystem
Geographical Skills & Fieldwork	map, key, symbol, compass, direction, aerial photograph	atlas, scale, grid, survey, data, compare	digital mapping, graph, fieldwork, analyse, investigate, evidence	four-figure grid reference, six-figure grid reference, enquiry, evaluate, conclude, interpret, justify