

Geography Knowledge Categories

Knowledge Categories

Geography education in primary schools is vital for fostering an understanding of the world around us and the complex interactions between humans and the environment. To provide a structured and comprehensive approach to teaching geography, we have identified six key knowledge categories that form the foundation of this subject. These categories are:





place

Definition: Place refers to the specific locations and areas on Earth's surface. It includes understanding the characteristics, features, and significance of various places.

Importance: Teaching about places helps students develop spatial awareness and an appreciation for the diversity of landscapes, cultures, and communities around the world. It forms the basis for understanding global interconnectedness.

Definition: Human features encompass the elements of geography created by humans, such as cities, towns, roads, buildings, and infrastructure.

Importance: Understanding human features provides insight into how human populations shape the environment. It encourages students to consider the impact of urbanisation, transportation, and settlement patterns.



**human
features**



**physical
features**

Definition: Physical features refer to natural landforms and geographical features, including mountains, rivers, deserts, and oceans.

Importance: Teaching physical features helps students recognise the Earth's natural beauty and diversity. It also introduces them to the processes that shape the Earth's surface and the importance of conserving natural resources.



human processes

Definition: Human processes involve the study of human activities, including trade, migration, agriculture, and urbanisation, and their impact on the environment.

Importance: Understanding human processes enables students to explore the complex relationships between humans and their surroundings. It promotes awareness of environmental issues and sustainability.

Definition: Physical processes encompass natural phenomena like weather, erosion, volcanoes, and tectonic plate movements.

Importance: Teaching physical processes helps students comprehend the dynamic nature of the Earth. It fosters an appreciation for natural disasters and geological events and their effects on landscapes and ecosystems.



physical processes



skills

Definition: Map skills involve the ability to read and interpret maps, including understanding symbols, scales, directions, and coordinates.

Importance: Proficiency in map skills is crucial for spatial literacy. It equips students with the tools to navigate the world, locate places, and analyse geographic information effectively.



EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Use a map of the school to locate different places and design a simple map of their outdoor area	Use maps to locate places and name features using keys and symbols. Begin to look at how the environment has changed over time	Identify features on a map through the use of symbols and keys. Begin to use fieldwork skills to monitor and explain patterns in human and physical features	Communicate locations through grid references and coordinates. Explain what makes a good map symbol and why. Observe and record the changes of human features over time, for example trade patterns



EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Compare different human features found in England to Africa	Compare different human features found in England to Africa	Compare different human features found in England to Africa	Compare different human features found in England to Africa



EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Read and design a simple map of the school.	Name and locate continents, seas and oceans around the world, using compass directions to describe the location of features or routes on a map.	Continue to locate countries around the world, whilst identifying the location of the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Equator and Prime Meridian.	Name, locate and describe major world cities. identify and explain the significance of the Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere and time zones, using six-figure grid references to find the position of different geographical areas and features.
Recite the road name and house number of their address	Draw and read a range of simple maps that use symbols and keys	Use four-figure grid references to locate and plot geographical places and features on a map	Use contour lines, lines of latitude and longitude to record the geography on an area



EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
	Locate and identify features of UK seaside resorts	Identify urban and rural areas, describing the different uses of each one.	Recognise ways humans can be more sustainable and identify methods being used with renewable energy.
		Recognise reasons why a site may be good or bad to settle on	Discuss different trade links and understand the advantages and disadvantages of travel



EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Compare the weather in the UK to Africa	Identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK and location of hot and cold areas of the world	Use specific geographical vocabulary and diagrams to explain the water cycle	Compare the physical processes, including weather, that affect two locations. Describe the process of erosion when discussing rivers



EYFS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
	Use basic geographical vocabulary to identify and describe physical features	Identify and explain the layers and climate of a rainforest, describing how these properties support life	Identify and describe key physical features and environmental regions of North America and Eastern Europe and explain how these, with the climate zones and soil types, can affect land use.