



GEOGRAPHY

Long Term Planning



How is the Geography scheme of work organised?

The national curriculum organises the attainment targets for Geography under **Locational knowledge**, **Place knowledge**, **Human and physical geography** and **Geographical skills and fieldwork** and so we have planned our Geography curriculum with these strands running through each and every unit.

National curriculum guidance



Exploring the four strands.

Locational knowledge

An understanding of locational knowledge helps pupils to:

- Develop their sense of place and identity.
- Develop an appreciation of distance and scale.
- Learn about the orientation of the world.

In the Early years, pupils learn positionality, beginning to understand where one object or feature is in relation to another, and use simple directional language to describe this. In Key stage 1 and 2 they extend this to more technical terms such as the points of the compass. Alongside this, pupils become more fluent in identifying specific locations.

Pupils also need to learn about absolute positioning systems such as latitude and longitude to develop an understanding of location affects many of the earth's systems.

Place knowledge

'Place knowledge' builds on 'Locational knowledge. Pupils not only locate a physical area on a map but also attach meaning to the space so it becomes a 'place' with similarities and differences to the places that they are familiar with - their homes, classrooms, towns and cities.

During primary school, pupils make comparisons between different places but also study the same place over time.

Human and physical geography

A knowledge of physical and human processes helps pupils to describe and explain different environments.

Pupils in Key stage 1 learn about weather patterns and how these relate to location. They learn to use geographical vocabulary to refer to key physical and human features.

In Key stage 2 children study why certain phenomena occur and the impact that these phenomena have on the environment over time.

It is important that pupils understand how human and physical processes interact.

Geographical skills and fieldwork

Pupils learn to interpret maps, globes and atlases and studying these spatial representations supports their development of a sense of place.

This begins in Key stage 1, with pupils studying plans of areas that they are familiar with through to studying more complex maps to find out about the topography of distant places.

Through fieldwork, pupils are able to connect their learning in geography lessons with the complexity of the real world.

Pupils learn how to observe and record the environment around them and this supports them in retaining key geographical knowledge.

Fieldwork should draw together pupils' location knowledge and that of the human and physical processes, helping pupils to see the interplay between them.

There is an interplay between these four strands and the concepts within them do not exist in isolation from each other. For this reason, elements of each strand appear in all of our Geography units.

Different types of knowledge in Geography

Substantive knowledge (‘knowing about’)

Substantive knowledge is the content that pupils will learn through studying the [Geography](#) curriculum: the recognised knowledge of the world and the human and physical processes that affect the people and environments within it.

This content is separated into the following areas in the National curriculum and within our scheme of work:

- **Locational knowledge**
- **Place knowledge**
- **Human and physical geography**
- **Geographical skills and fieldwork**

These four areas are explained in more detail in the previous slide. It is important that pupils also understand the relationships between these four different areas.

Geographical concepts

We are currently adding a [Progression of geographical concepts](#) document showing how our Geography curriculum builds pupils understanding of the concepts of: Space, Place, Earth Systems, Environment, Time, Scale, Diversity, Interconnection and Interpretation.

Disciplinary knowledge (‘ways of knowing’)

Pupils gain knowledge of the subject as a discipline, considering how geographical knowledge (such as the substantive knowledge they study) originates through geographical practice.

Fieldwork enquiries in each unit give pupils the opportunity to understand and follow the same processes that geographers follow to find answers to enquiry questions and to consider the validity of these answers. Please see our [enquiry cycle](#) for further information on these processes.

Progression in disciplinary knowledge is shown in our **Geographical skills and fieldwork** strand but it is important to understand that to carry out an effective enquiry, geographers must draw on their substantive and procedural knowledge.

Procedural knowledge (‘knowing how to’)

Pupils gain procedural knowledge primarily through the **Geographical skills and fieldwork** strand.

They learn knowledge of how to collect, analyse and communicate data and geographical information from fieldwork, maps and other sources and consider how to interpret this range of sources to answer enquiry questions.

Building understanding of geographical concepts

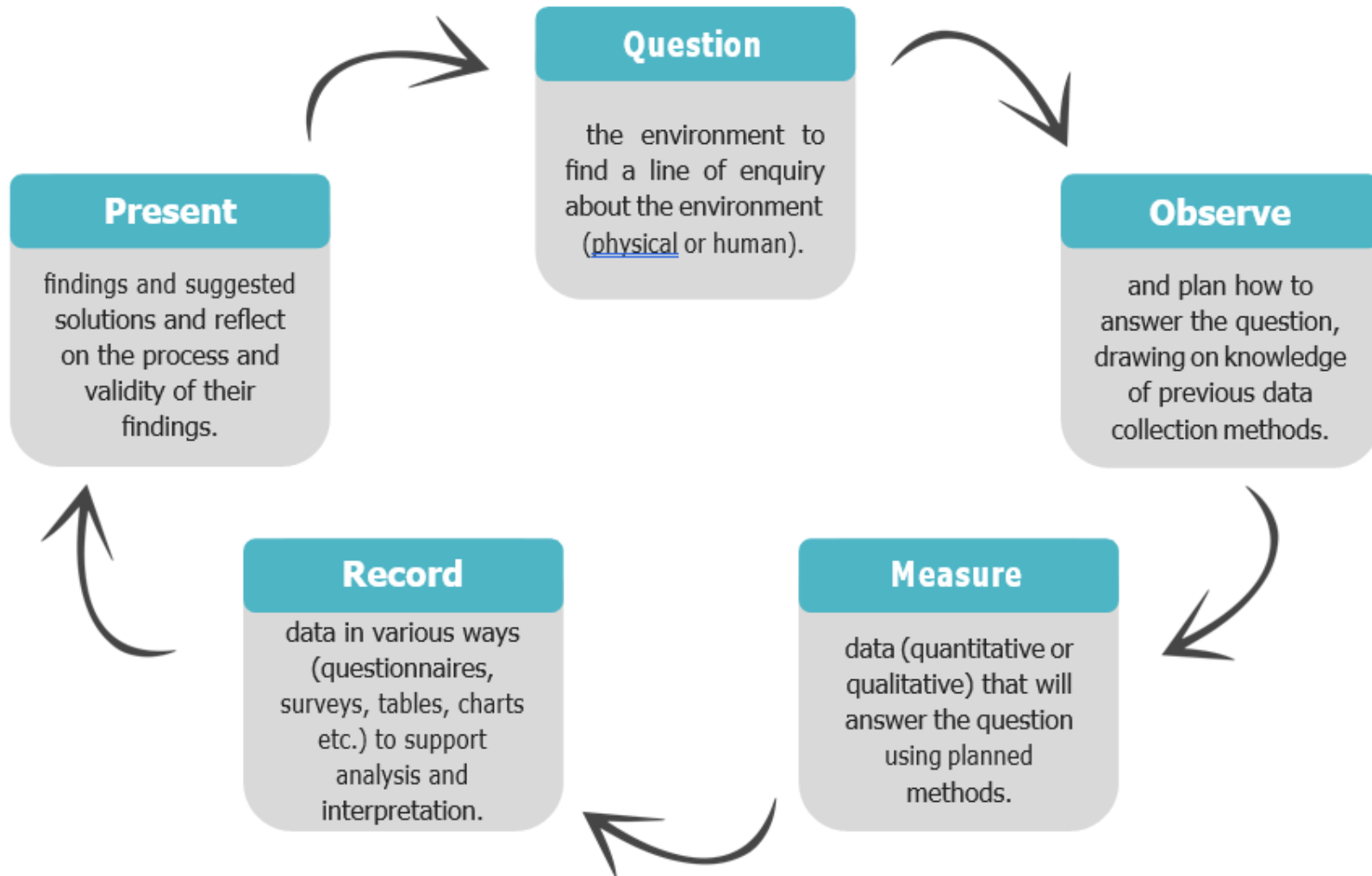
The Ofsted research review series: geography (2022) acknowledges that there has been many differing opinions on what constitutes key geographical concepts in the geography community over the years. However, it highlights the importance of pupils understanding the following concepts:

- **Place**
- **Space**
- **Scale**
- **Interdependence**
- **Physical and human processes**
- **Environmental impact**
- **Sustainable development**



The enquiry cycle

It is important that pupils consider the ways that geographers question and explain the world and begin to 'think like a geographer.' We have used this enquiry cycle when planning the fieldwork studies throughout our scheme to encourage pupils to ask geographical questions and learn how geographers reach their answers through enquiry.



A spiral curriculum

The scheme of work has been designed as a spiral curriculum with the following key principles in mind:

- ✓ **Cyclical:** Pupils return to the key knowledge and skills again and again during their time in primary school.
- ✓ **Increasing depth:** Each time a skill is revisited it is covered with greater complexity.
- ✓ **Prior knowledge:** Prior knowledge is utilised so pupils can build upon previous foundations, rather than starting again.



Geography in EYFS: Reception

Our Geography Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception) activities are designed to target Development matters 'Understanding the world' statements.

Clear progression between EYFS (Reception) and Key stage 1 content can be seen by looking at our Progression of knowledge and skills document, where component knowledge and skills are outlined across our strands (**Locational knowledge, Place knowledge, Human and physical geography, Geographical skills and knowledge**) from EYFS (Reception) through to Year 6.

Our Geography EYFS (Reception) 'units' are not designed to be taught in a set order. Instead, they feature flexible, small-step activities, allowing teachers to personalise lessons to include local geography or to fit in with their chosen themes or topics. The activities have been designed for continuous provision. An adult will need to explain the outcome of the station at the beginning of the week, but after this, independent learning should be encouraged.

The activities are designed to build pupils' familiarity with maps, atlases and globes to develop their early geographical skills and fieldwork. Children begin to use simple directional language to prepare for the locational knowledge to come in Key stage 1 and 2.



LONG TERM PLAN

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
EYFS (Reception)	Our new EYFS activities are designed to be used throughout the year to support Reception teachers in targeting Development matters statements, while also laying the foundations for pupils' further geography learning. See here for more information on Geography in EYFS: Reception .		
Year 1	What is it like here?	What is the weather like in the UK?	What is it like to live in Shanghai?
Year 2	Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place?	Why is our world wonderful?	What is it like to live by the coast?
Year 3 (LKS2)	Why do people live near volcanoes?	Who lives in Antarctica?	Are all settlements the same?
Year 4 (LKS2)	Why are rainforests important to us?	Where does our food come from?	What are rivers and how are they used?
Year 5 (UKS2)	What is life like in the Alps?	Why do oceans matter?	Would you like to live in the desert?
Year 6 (UKS2)	Why does population change?	Where does our energy come from?	Can I carry out an independent fieldwork enquiry?