

Geography

Teaching geography at key stage 2.

Aims and purposes of geography

Geography teaching offers opportunities to:

- stimulate children's interest in their surroundings and in the variety of human and physical conditions on the Earth's surface;
- foster children's sense of wonder at the beauty of the world around them;
- help children to develop an informed concern about the quality of the environment and the future of the human habitat; and
- thereby enhance children's sense of responsibility for the care of the Earth and its people.

Content of geography at key stage 2.

Key stage 2

In key stage 2, geography is about developing knowledge, skills and understanding relating to people, places and environments at different scales, in the United Kingdom and overseas, and an appreciation of how places relate to each other and the wider world.

Children:

- study places and themes at different scales from local to national in the United Kingdom and overseas, and investigate how people and places are linked and how they relate to the wider world;
- study how and why physical and human features are arranged as they are in a place or environment, and how people are influenced by and affect environments;
- focus on geographical questions like What is it like? How did it get like this? How and why is it changing?;
- develop and use geographical enquiry skills, including fieldwork and IT skills, geographical terms, making and using maps, and using photographs.

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Language and communication

Children:

- develop language skills through talking about their work and presenting their own ideas using sustained and systematic writing of different kinds;
- use geographical language and draw maps and diagrams to communicate geographical information;
- read fiction and non-fiction, and extract information from sources such as reference books, CD-ROMS, e-mails and the Internet.

Values and attitudes

Children:

- work with others, listen to each other's ideas, and treat them with respect;
- have opportunities to consider their own attitudes and values, and those of other people;
- develop respect for evidence and critically evaluate ideas which may or may not fit the evidence available;
- develop a respect for the environment and be encouraged to evaluate their own and others' effect or impact on it.

Expectations

By the end of key stage 2, most children will be able to:

- explain the physical and human characteristics of places, and their similarities and differences;
- know the location of key places in the United Kingdom, Europe and the world;
- explain patterns of physical and human features;
- recognise how selected physical and human processes cause changes in the character of places and environments;
- describe how people can affect the environment and explain the different views held by people about environmental change;
- undertake geographical investigations by asking and responding to questions and using a range of geographical enquiry skills, resources and their own observations.