



St James & St John C.E. Primary School

Geography Skills and Knowledge Progression KS1 2025-2026



	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2
Locational Skills and Knowledge	<p>Skills Identifying land and water on a map or globe. Making observations about the characteristics of places (in stories, photographs or in the school grounds/local area).</p> <p>Knowledge To know some vocabulary to describe different bodies of water, even if used inaccurately (sea/ocean, lake, river, pond) To know that usually water is represented in blue on a map or globe. To know the name of their school and the place where they live. To know some vocabulary to describe the characteristics of different places, even if used inaccurately (hill, field, building, road, house, old)</p>	<p>Skills Locating two of the world's seven continents on a world map. Locating two of the world's oceans (Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean) on a world map. Showing on a map which continent they live in. Locating the four countries of the United Kingdom (UK) on a map of this area. Showing on a map which country they live in and locating its capital city.</p> <p>Knowledge To know the name of two continents (Europe and Asia). To know that a continent is a group of countries. To know that they live in the continent of Europe. To know that an ocean is a large body of water. To know the name of two of the world's oceans (Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean) To know that the UK is short for 'United Kingdom'. To know that a country is a land or nation with its own government. To know that the United Kingdom is made up of four countries and their names To know the name of the country they live in.</p>	<p>Skills Locating all the world's seven continents on a world map. Locating the world's five oceans on a world map. Showing on a map the oceans nearest the continent they live in. Locating the surrounding seas and oceans of the UK on a map of this area. Confidently locating the capital cities of the four countries of the UK on a map of this area. Identifying characteristics (both human and physical) of the four capital cities of the UK. Showing on a map the city, town or village where they live in relation to their capital city.</p> <p>Knowledge To be able to name the seven continents of the world. To be able to name the five oceans of the world. To know that a sea is a body of water that is smaller than an ocean. To know that there are four bodies of water surrounding the UK and to be able to name them. To name some characteristics of the four capital cities of the UK. To know the four capital cities of the UK. To know that a capital city is the city where a country's government is located.</p>
Place Knowledge	<p>Skills Discussing how environments in stories and images are different to the environment they live in.</p> <p>Knowledge To know that places within this country can differ from each other To know that there are differences between places in this country and places in other countries.</p>	<p>Skills Naming some key similarities between their local area and a small area of a contrasting non-European country. Naming some key differences between their local area and a small area of a contrasting non-European country.</p> <p>Knowledge To know that life elsewhere in the world is often different to ours. To know that life elsewhere in the world often has similarities to ours</p>	<p>Skills Describing and beginning to explain some key similarities between their local area and a small area of a contrasting non-European country. Describing and beginning to explain some key differences between their local area and a small area of a contrasting non-European country. Describing what physical features may occur in a hot place in comparison to a cold place.</p> <p>Knowledge To know some similarities and differences between their local area and a contrasting non European country.</p>



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Human and Physical Geography	<p>Skills Observing weather across the seasons. Observing and discussing the effect the changing seasons have on the world around them. Beginning to use the names of the seasons in the correct context. Making observations about the features of places (in stories, photographs or in the school grounds/local area). Making observations about the characteristics of places (in stories, photographs or in the school grounds/local area)</p> <p>Knowledge To know that the terms Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter are used to describe the season. To know some of the key characteristics of each season. To know that there are four seasons in a year marked by certain weather conditions. To know some vocabulary to describe different bodies of water, even if used inaccurately (sea/ocean, lake, river, pond). To know some vocabulary to describe the characteristics of different places, even if used inaccurately (hill, field, building, road, house, old).</p>	<p>Skills Describing how the weather changes with each season in the UK. Describing the daily weather patterns in their locality. Confidently using the vocabulary 'season' and 'weather'. Recognising some physical features in their locality. Recognising some human features in their locality.</p> <p>Knowledge To know the four seasons of the UK. To know that 'weather' refers to the conditions outside at a particular time. To know that different parts of the UK often experience different weather. To know that a weather forecast is when someone tries to predict what the weather will be like in the near future. To know that weather conditions can be measured and recorded. To know that physical features means any feature of an area that is on the Earth naturally. To know that human features means any feature of an area that was made or built by humans.</p>	<p>Skills Locating some hot and cold areas of the world on a world map. Locating the Equator and North and South Poles on a world map. Locating hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South poles. Describing the key physical features of a coast using subject specific vocabulary. Describing and understanding the differences between a city, town and village. Describing the key human features of a coastal town using subject specific vocabulary.</p> <p>Knowledge To know that the Equator is an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth. To know that, because it is the widest part of the Earth, the Equator is much closer to the sun than the North and South poles. To know that the North Pole is the northernmost point of the Earth and the South Pole is the southernmost point of the Earth. To know that different parts of the world experience different weather conditions and that these are often caused by the location of the place. To know that coasts (and other physical features) change over time. To know some key physical features of the UK. To know that a sea is a body of water that is smaller than an ocean. To know that human features change over time. To know some key human features of the UK.</p>



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Geographical skills and fieldwork	<p>Skills Ask questions about the world around them. Commenting on the features they see in their school and school grounds. Answering simple questions, guided by the teacher. Representing some of the features they notice in their school and school grounds. Expressing their likes and dislikes about a specific place and its features, beginning to explain their reasoning. Beginning to look at and talk about maps (real or imaginary) in stories, non-fiction books, atlases and on globes. Beginning to use modelled directional vocabulary when describing features in the surrounding environment. Recognising features on maps (real or imaginary). Creating real or imaginary maps even if features are indistinguishable.</p> <p>Knowledge To know that a map is a picture of a place. To know some vocabulary to describe directions, even if used inaccurately (e.g near, far, next to, close, behind). To know that a place and its features can be represented in a picture.</p>	<p>Skills Using an atlas to locate the UK. Using an atlas to locate the four countries in the UK. Using a world map and globe to locate four of the world's seven continents (Europe and Asia) Using a world map and globe to locate the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean. Using directional language to describe the location of objects in the classroom and playground. Using directional language to describe features on a map in relation to other features (real or imaginary). Responding to instructions using directional language to follow routes. Beginning to use the compass points (N, S, E, W) to describe the location of features on a map. Recognising local landmarks on aerial photographs. Recognising basic human features on aerial photographs. Recognising basic physical features on aerial photographs. Drawing freehand maps (of real or imaginary places) using simple pictures or symbols. Drawing a simple sketch map of the school and local area using simple pictures, colours or symbols to represent features. Adding labels to sketch maps. Using simple picture maps and plans to move around the school. Asking questions about the world around them. Commenting on the features they see in their school and school grounds on a walk around the respective places. Asking and answering simple questions about the features of their school and school grounds. Drawing some of the features they notice in their school and school grounds in correct relation to each other on a sketch map. Using a simple recording technique to express their feelings about a specific place and explaining why they like/dislike some of its features.</p> <p>Knowledge To know that an aerial photograph is a photograph taken from the air above. To know that atlases give information about the world and that a map tells us information about a place. To know that symbols are often used on maps to represent features. To know simple directional language (e.g near, far, up, down, left, right, forwards, backwards). To know what a sketch map is. To know that a compass is an instrument we can use to find which direction is north. To know which direction is N, S, E, W on a map.</p>	<p>Skills Recognising why maps need a title. Using an atlas to locate the four capital cities of the UK. Using a world map, globe and atlas to locate all the world's seven continents on a world map. Using a world map, globe and atlas to locate the world's five oceans. Using locational language and the compass points (N, S, E, W) to describe the location of features on a map. Using locational language and the compass points (N, S, E, W) to describe the route on a map. Using a map to follow a prepared route. Recognising landmarks of a city studied on aerial photographs and plan perspectives. Recognising human features on aerial photographs and plan perspectives. Recognising physical features on aerial photographs and plan perspectives. Drawing a map and using class agreed symbols to make a simple key. Drawing a simple sketch map of the playground or school grounds using symbols to represent human and physical features. Finding a given OS symbol on a map with support. Beginning to draw objects to scale (e.g show the school playground is smaller than the school or school field). Using an aerial photograph to draw a simple sketch map using basic symbols for a key. Recognising there are different ways to answer a question. Discussing the features they see in the area surrounding their school when on a walk. Asking and answering simple questions about human and physical features of the area surrounding their school grounds. Collecting quantitative data through a small survey of the local area/school to answer an enquiry question. Classifying the features they notice into human and physical with teacher support. Taking digital photographs of geographical features in the locality. Making digital audio recordings when interviewing someone. Presenting data in simple tally charts or pictograms and commenting on what the data shows. Asking and answering simple questions about data.</p> <p>Knowledge To know that a globe is a spherical model of the Earth. To begin to recognise world maps as a flattened globe. To know that maps need a title and purpose. To know that maps need a key to explain what the symbols and colours represent. To know that a tally chart is a way of collecting data quickly. To know that a pictogram is a chart that uses pictures to show data.</p>

EYFS

Understanding of the World: ELG: People, Culture and Communities

Pupils are expected to describe their immediate environment using knowledge from observation, discussion, stories, non-fiction text and maps. Pupils are expected to explain some similarities and differences between life in the UK and life in other countries, locating places on a world map.

National Curriculum: KS1

Pupils should develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality. They should understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and begin to use geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness.

Locational knowledge:

- Name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans, name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas.

Place knowledge:

- Understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country.

Human and physical geography:

- Identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles.
- Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to; key physical features including; beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather.
- Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to; key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop.

Geographical skills and fieldwork:

- Use world maps, atlases, globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as the countries, continents and oceans studied at this key stage.
- Use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language (for example, near and far; left and right) to describe the location of features and routes, in a map.
- Use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features; devise a simple map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key.
- Use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment.