



Lotus
Academy

Geography Curriculum Our World





Geography Overview

Intent

The Geography curriculum at Lotus academy is designed to give the children the knowledge, skills and experiences needed to understand the world around them and their place within it. Through a carefully sequenced curriculum, pupils develop curiosity about people, places and environments while promoting communication skills, developing independence, building resilience and helping to build healthy relationships and understanding of the way different people and cultures live. The curriculum is designed to support the needs of pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs by providing meaningful, practical and engaging learning opportunities that connect to real-life experiences.

We intend for pupils to:

- Develop a secure geographical understanding from their local area, expanding to the United Kingdom and the wider world.
- Build geographical knowledge and vocabulary through a curriculum that is ambitious, engaging and accessible.
- Understand the relationship between physical and human geography and how people interact with environments.
- Gain confidence in using maps, atlases, digital technology and fieldwork techniques to investigate geographical questions.
- Explore diverse places, cultures and communities, developing respect, empathy and appreciation for different ways of life.
- Develop environmental awareness and an understanding of sustainability, climate change and global responsibility.
- Experience learning beyond the classroom through practical fieldwork and first-hand experiences that support engagement and emotional regulation.

Through Geography, we aspire to inspire pupils to be curious about the world, understand their role within it and recognise that they can positively influence the environments and communities in which they live.

Implementation

The Geography curriculum is carefully sequenced to build pupils' geographical knowledge, skills and understanding progressively from Year 3 to Year 8. Each topic area begins with a skills focus, enabling pupils to develop and revisit key geographical concepts, vocabulary and fieldwork skills before applying them in more thematic studies.

In Lower Key Stage 2, pupils develop awareness of the world around them, exploring urban environments and the physical and human features of the United Kingdom, as well as develop understanding of coastal environments and participating in fieldwork activities. In Upper Key Stage 2, pupils deepen their understanding of geography, developing map work skills, locational knowledge and understanding of geographical processes. Children explore and investigate physical geography, including volcanoes and earthquakes, and mountains and rivers.

As children move into Years 7 and 8, pupils extend their understanding of complex geographical themes, learning about agriculture, farming systems and rural land use and explore polar regions, their physical characteristics and contemporary environmental issues. Whilst also further developing their map and fieldwork skills.

Throughout the curriculum, geography is taught through enquiry, fieldwork, map skills, data analysis and vocabulary development. Learning is carefully sequenced to ensure progression, with clear links between units and across other curriculum subjects. The chosen units enable children to become confident, knowledgeable and curious geographers.



	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 3/4 – Cycle A		Bright Lights, Big City / City Explorers • Location knowledge - Name and locate the four countries of the UK and their capital cities on a map, atlas or globe. • Place knowledge – Understand the differences between the capital cities within the UK • Human Features - Identify features and landmarks on an aerial photograph or plan perspective • Physical Features – Understand the key physical features of a city – such as river, landscape • Map Skills - Use simple directional and positional language to give directions, describe the location of features and discuss where things are in relation to each other.	
Year 3/4 – Cycle B	Let's Explore the World • Location knowledge - Locate the equator and the North and South Poles on a world map or globe. • Place knowledge – Describe simple weather patterns of hot and cold places. • Human Features - Describe how human behaviour can be beneficial to local and global environments • Physical Features – Describe and compare the physical similarities and differences between two places • Map Skills - Use simple compass directions		Coastline • Location knowledge - Study aerial photographs to describe the features and characteristics of an area of land around the coastline • Place knowledge – Name and locate seas surrounding the UK, as well as seas, the five oceans and seven continents around the world on a world map or globe • Human Features - Describe how an environment has or might change over time due to human impact - tourism • Physical Features – Describe the size, location and position of a physical feature, such as beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley and vegetation. • Map Skills - Draw or read a range of maps that use symbols and a key.
Year 5/6 – Cycle A		Rocks, Relics and Rumbles • Location knowledge – Name and locate significant volcanoes and plate boundaries and explain why they are important. • Place knowledge – Describe how a significant geographical activity has changed a landscape in the short or long term. • Human Features – • Physical Features – Describe the activity of plate tectonics and how this has changed the Earth's surface over time (continental drift). • Map Skills – Locate significant places using latitude and longitude and the eight points of a compass.	



	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 5/6 – Cycle B	Misty Mountain, Winding River - Location knowledge – Name and locate the significant mountains or rivers across the UK and World - Place knowledge – Explain the importance of significant mountains or rivers - Human Features - Explain ways that settlements, land use or water systems are used in the UK and other parts of the world - Physical Features – Describe different physical features of rivers and mountains - Map Skills - Identify the topography of an area of the UK using contour lines on a map; Use four or six-figure grid references and keys to describe the location of objects and places on a map.		Interconnected World - Location knowledge - Locate the countries and major cities of North, Central and South America on a world map, atlas or globe - Place knowledge – Describe how a significant geographical activity has changed a landscape in the short or long term - Human Features - Describe a range of human features and their location and explain how they are interconnected - Physical Features – Explain climatic variations of a country or continent - Map Skills - Identify the location of the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn on a world map
Year 7/8 – Cycle A		Sow, Grow and Farm - Location Knowledge - Name and locate the world's biomes, climate zones and vegetation belts and explain their common characteristics - Place Knowledge - Describe in detail the different types of agricultural land use in the UK. - Human Features - Describe and explain the location, purpose and use of transport networks - Physical Features - Explain how the climate affects land use - Map skills - Use compass points, grid references and scale to interpret maps, including Ordnance Survey maps, with accuracy	
Year 7/8 – Cycle B	Frozen Kingdoms - Location knowledge - Explain how climate change affects climate zones and biomes across the world - Place knowledge – Describe the climatic similarities and differences between two regions - Human Features - Explain how humans' function in the place they live - Physical Features – Compare and describe physical features of polar landscapes - Map Skills - Identify the position and explain the significance of latitude, longitude, equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, and the Arctic and Antarctic Circles		Our Changing World - Location Knowledge - Identify the position and explain the significance of latitude, longitude, and time zones - Place Knowledge - Name, locate and explain the distribution of significant industrial, farming and exporting regions around the world - Human Features - Describe patterns of human population growth and movement, economic activities, space, land use and human settlement patterns of an area of the UK - Physical Features - Explain how climate change affects climate zones and biomes across the world - Map Skills - Use lines of longitude and latitude or grid references to find the position of different geographical areas and features

