

Big question: What is Geography all about?

Lesson	Essential Knowledge
<p>1: To compare the Geography of places</p>	<p>Geography is important because it informs us about the places and communities in which we live and work. Our natural environments and the pressures they face. The interconnectedness of the world and the choices that exist in managing our world for the future. Six concepts in Geography are covered in a variety of topics, they include: Dynamic; Innovation; Scale; Action; Citizen Responsibility; and Sustainability. Six themes in Geography that I will cover in a variety of topics include; Restless Earth; Proving a Point; Living Earth; Interconnected Planet; My Part; Resilient communities. Earth is around 4.5 billion years old. Modern humans are scientifically named Homo sapiens (meaning 'wise man'). We began to spread across Earth about 60,000 years ago, from our home in East Africa. The Earth is dynamic, these changes can be natural or caused by humans. Natural change can be caused by tectonic activity e.g. earthquakes and volcanoes; rivers, waves, glaciers and wind; weathering. Human changes include deforestation and land use change. Physical Geography is the study of natural processes whereas human Geography is the study of population processes, culture or built environments. The 4 main types of settlement are: Hamlet; village; town; city.</p>
<p>2: A World of Contrasts</p>	<p>There are approximately 7.6 billion people on the planet. There are approximately 195 countries! Development is about improving people's lives. The categories of development include; developing; emerging and developed. England is an example of a developed country, whereas, Malawi is a developing country. Inequality means that wealth and access to services are not shared equally. There is a big development gap between rich and poor countries. This could be caused by historical reasons such as colonialism; geographical reasons (e.g. climate); health and education, conflict (war) and corruption (people in power take bribes or steal money); few resources to export e.g. oil; and lack of industry. Standard of living refers to the level of goods, services and comfort available to a person. In a developed country, almost everyone has enough food, water and money to survive on and therefore, standard of living is high. Data about countries is collected every year and are known as development indicators. For example, life expectancy (the average number of years a person is expected to live). Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services a country produces in a year. GDP per person is often used as the main indicator of development. If GDP per person is high then the country is likely to have good roads, and services like schools and hospitals. Literacy rate refers to the number of people who can read and write in a country. Infant mortality refers to the number of children who die before their 1st birthday. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of global development priorities.</p>
<p>3: A perfect Planet</p>	<p>An ecosystem is a community of plants and animals which live together. They are connected to the non-living parts of the environment e.g. the rocks and the soil. A biome is a large-scale ecosystem which has certain characteristics. E.g. the tropical rainforest or the desert. The biosphere is the global ecological system integrating all living beings and their relationships, including their interaction with the elements of the lithosphere, hydrosphere (watercycle), and atmosphere. The biosphere is important because It provides a habitat for wildlife, food e.g. fruits and berries, shelter, plants that grow in the biosphere help to stabilise the soil, trees provide the oxygen that we need to survive and absorb carbon dioxide a harmful greenhouse gas. It is the reason we are on the planet today! The main threats to our biomes are: Population growth; Using land for urbanisation (is an increase in the number of people living in towns and cities); using land for agriculture (farming) for our food; Pollution from transport or factories which goes into the air or the water systems (atmosphere and hydrosphere); Mining for minerals like bauxite (to make aluminium), iron ore (steel) or precious minerals like diamonds. The United Kingdom is part of the deciduous / temperate biome. This biome has 4 layers which include</p>

	<p>the ground layer, herb layer, sub canopy and the canopy. In contrast, the savanna a hot climate all year round. They have a wet season lasting for 6 months, reaching about 1200mm. If the rain was evenly distributed it would become a tropical rainforest. The rains fall during October. Fires come in January, many animals can escape. The ash provides nutrients to the soil and clear dead grasses creating new life. Much of the vegetation has had to adapt to drought and fire. The baobab stores water in the big trunk and thick bark resists fires. The lion is perfectly camouflaged and they can run up to 40mph. Humans use the savanna for food as well as for wood production and mining. Some parts are mined for the resources underground. And other areas are used for farming. Acid rain can be the result of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide (CO₂) · nitrous oxide(N₂O) · methane (CH₄)) in the atmosphere which can also cause global warming. We need to live in a more sustainable way which does not harm us or other species, and is not wasteful. Nutrients in the deciduous woodland are recycled more slowly than in tropical rainforests. Nutrients are cycled between three stores, litter (dead organisms such as leaves), biomass (living organisms) and soil. Therefore, biodiversity in the deciduous / temperate forest is lower than that of the tropical rainforest.</p>
<p>4: Eco-Warrior Not Worrier</p>	<p>On a small scale, a tree may be cut down to let more sunlight into a garden. The tree can no longer provide birds and insects, together with worms and organisms that live among the tree's roots, a place to live. On a large scale, natural vegetation is removed and replaced with either by crops for food, grazing animals, or to provide room for the houses in which people live. In the UK, much of the temperate deciduous forest has been removed for farming and to provide room for towns and cities. Today, of the forest areas which remain, many have become tourist attractions. In the United States much of the temperate grassland has been removed to grow cereals. In the Kalahari Desert in Botswana, bushmen traditionally live by hunting and gathering the produce of the desert. In the Mediterranean, the growth of tourist resorts and demand for water puts the natural ecosystem under pressure. In Leicestershire and Rutland, where more than 80% of the land is farmed. Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan was modelled on the National plan but concentrated on species and habitats of local conservation concern. In 2010 the scope was widened to include habitat creation in the wider countryside. This is where most of our wildlife is found and it is where many common species (farmland birds, butterflies and moths being the best documented) are in decline. Space for Wildlife has had success in promoting the creation of local habitat. Good examples are the Trust's new nature reserves in the Soar Valley including Wanlip Meadows; major wetland creation at Rutland Water Nature Reserve; and extensive tree planting and wetland creation in the National Forest. Thousands of new homes will be needed in Leicester for the city's growing population over the next 15 or 20 years and council bosses have now mapped out dozens of sites where they think they should be built. They range from larger greenfield areas with enough space to take hundreds of homes to much smaller patches. Included in the list are former industrial plots, play areas, parks, former allotments and even portions of school playing fields. As population grows, demand for products rises, many of which contain Palm oil which is a natural product farmed and exported from places like Malaysia and put into everyday items like toothpaste and chocolate bars. Development of infrastructure, including roads and rail networks such as HS2 is a high-speed rail network also have a negative impact on the environment. Conservation – to protect or to keep. Nature conservation is focused on protecting species from extinction, maintaining and restoring habitats, enhancing ecosystem services, and protecting biological diversity. Narborough Bog is a unique reserve for Leicestershire and Rutland; Over 6,000 years old, it's no wonder that this reserve is such a hotbed for wildlife in suburbia. Over 130 bird species have been recorded here, including kingfishers, tawny owls and all three species of woodpecker! Aylestone Meadows is Leicester's largest local nature reserve, and its natural habitats support a rich diversity of plant and animal life. Scarce plants such as marsh arrow grass, ragged robin and lady's smock all feature on the site. Fauna such as otters, swans, long horn cattle and badgers make their home here.</p>