



Geography Curriculum

Intent

At Churchstanton Primary School, we believe that a high-quality geography education should develop children's knowledge of the world around them. We are committed to ensuring that children know about the physical geography of the planet as well as human geography to build understanding of a variety of places.

As a rural school, we believe that an exploration of different places in the world is particularly important to promote diversity and intercultural understanding. This will also help children develop skills that will open further opportunities later in life. Our curriculum also introduces environmental issues and climate change in order to raise awareness of current geographical problems the world is facing. We also aim to make sure that children acquire the vocabulary and skills required for a further study of this subject when moving on to Key Stage 3.

Our children will be global citizens in an ever more interconnected world and we strive to prepare them for this future through their study of the world in geography.

Implementation

We are using Cornerstones curriculum as a basis for our study of geography across the school. This is a well-developed curriculum with progression of skills built into it across key stages as well as a range of challenging and inspiring geographical units of study (including all compulsory elements of the National Curriculum). The disciplinary knowledge introduced at the earliest stage is built on year upon year so that by year 6 our children are highly skilled in geography.

Study of geography is introduced in Early Years on a very personal level and through stories – introducing children to the concept of the world around them such as their immediate environment, the natural world (including through the outdoor learning curriculum), the seasons and the environment.

At Key Stage 1, the children will begin to learn a range of important geographical skills such as the points of a compass, how to use a map and atlas to find places within the UK and around the world and how to record observations. They will be introduced to a variety of subject-specific vocabulary linked to the planet, its locations and its climate. Children will explore places in the UK and contrast them with locations in other parts of the world. This will be important preparation for their study of geography at KS2.

During lower Key Stage 2, children will continue to develop their geographical skills by building on those already introduced at KS1. They will look at grid references, latitude and longitude as part of their map work in addition to learning more detailed information about the planet (such as the tropics, climate zones and plate tectonics). Children will also undertake detailed studies of volcanoes, mountains and rivers as part of key driver units.

At upper Key Stage 2 the level of skill continues to progress through study of worldwide time zones and study of interconnected climate zones, vegetation belts and biomes. Children will also revise aspects introduced at LKS2 – particularly in regard to map work skills. Children will undertake detailed studies of the polar regions (including study of climate change) and worldwide agriculture in various climate zones (and the effects of the climate on this).

There is a clear progression of skills as the children move through their study of geography and we use a wide variety of resources, high-quality texts, images and maps (both paper and digital) during the delivery of our lessons. We also make good use of our rural setting and outdoor learning curriculum to offer additional opportunities for the study of geography and practical use of geographical skills.

Geography curriculum overview

	CYCLE A AUTUMN	CYCLE A SPRING	CYCLE A SUMMER	CYCLE B AUTUMN	CYCLE B SPRING	CYCLE B SUMMER
<p>EYFS</p> <p>(Repeats each year as children only remain in reception for one year and all need these units as a basis for future understanding and progression).</p> <p>The outdoor learning curriculum will support these units.</p>	<p>Me and my community & Let's Explore</p> <p>These projects teach children to explore the world around them, making observations and drawing pictures. They will observe important changes and seasons outside. They will describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. Children will compare the natural world in different places around the world (looking at geographical and climate differences). They will understand the important processes and changes in the natural world around them.</p>	<p>On the Beach & Sunshine and sunflowers</p> <p>These projects teach children to explore the natural world around them. They will describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside whilst beginning to understand the negative impact that humans can have on the environment. They will be able to draw information from a simple map of their local area. They will be able to talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how they might differ from another. They will explore the natural world around them making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.</p>	<p>Once upon a time & Animal Safari</p> <p>These projects teach children to understand the important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including seasons and changing states of matter through observations and investigations at Forest school. Children will know what they can do to make positive changes towards sustainability.</p>	<p>Me and my community & Let's Explore</p> <p>This project teaches children to explore the world around them, making observations and drawing pictures. They will observe important changes and seasons outside. They will describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. Children will compare the natural world in different places around the world (looking at geographical and climate differences). They will understand the important processes and changes in the natural world around them.</p>	<p>On the Beach & Sunshine and sunflowers</p> <p>These projects teach children to explore the natural world around them. They will describe what they see, hear and feel whilst beginning to understand the negative impact that humans can have on the environment. They will be able to draw information from a simple map of their local area. They will be able to talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how they might differ from another. They will explore the natural world around them making observations and drawing pictures of animals and plants.</p>	<p>Once upon a time & Animal Safari</p> <p>These projects teach children to understand the important processes and changes in the natural world around them, including seasons and changing states of matter through observations and investigations at Forest school. Children will know what they can do to make positive changes towards sustainability.</p>

KS1



Our Wonderful World – **companion project**

This essential skills and knowledge project teaches children about physical and human features, maps, cardinal compass points, and positional and directional language. They learn about the equator, hemispheres and continents and are introduced to the countries, capital cities and settlements of the United Kingdom. The children carry out simple fieldwork to find out about local physical and human features.

HISTORY DRIVER PROJECT – CHILDHOOD



Bright Lights, Big City

This project teaches children about the physical and human characteristics of the United Kingdom, including a detailed exploration of the characteristics and features of the capital city, London.

HISTORY DRIVER PROJECT – SCHOOL DAYS



Let's Explore the World – **companion project**

This essential skills and knowledge project teaches children about atlases, maps and cardinal compass points. They learn about the characteristics of the four countries of the United Kingdom and find out why there are hot, temperate and cold places around the world. They also compare England to Somalia. Children carry out fieldwork, collecting primary data in their locality to answer geographical questions.

HISTORY DRIVER PROJECT – MOVERS AND SHAKERS



Coastline

This project teaches children about the physical and human features of coastal regions across the United Kingdom, including a detailed exploration of the coastal town of Whitby, in Yorkshire.

HISTORY DRIVER PROJECT – MAGNIFICENT MONARCHS

LKS2



Our Planet, Our World – **companion project**

This essential skills and knowledge project teaches children to locate countries and cities, and use grid references, compass points and latitude and longitude. They learn about the layers of the Earth and plate tectonics and discover the five major climate zones. They learn about significant places in the United Kingdom and carry out fieldwork to discover how land is used in the locality.

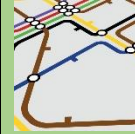
HISTORY DRIVER PROJECT – THROUGH THE AGES



Rocks, Relics and rumbles

This project teaches children about the features and characteristics of Earth's layers, including a detailed exploration of volcanic, tectonic and seismic activity.

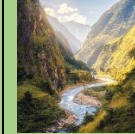
HISTORY DRIVER PROJECT - EMPERORS AND EMPIRES



Interconnected World – **companion project**

This essential skills and knowledge project teaches children about compass points and four and six-figure grid references. They learn about the tropics and the countries, climates and culture of North and South America. Children identify physical features in the United Kingdom and learn about the National Rail and canal networks. They conduct an enquiry to prove a hypothesis, gathering data from maps and surveys before drawing conclusions.

HISTORY DRIVER PROJECT - INVASION



Misty Mountain, Winding River

This project teaches children about the characteristics and features of rivers and mountain ranges around the world, including a detailed exploration of the ecosystems and processes that shape them and the land around them.

HISTORY DRIVER PROJECT - ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS

UKS2



Investigating Our World – **companion project**

This essential skills and knowledge project teaches children about locating map features using a range of methods. They learn about the Prime Meridian, Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), and worldwide time zones and study interconnected climate zones, vegetation belts and biomes. Children learn about human geography and capital cities worldwide before looking at the UK motorway network and settlements. They carry out an enquiry to identify local settlement types.

HISTORY DRIVER PROJECT – DYNAMIC DYNASTIES



Sow, Grow and Farm

This project teaches children about the features and characteristics of land use in agricultural regions across the world, including a detailed exploration of significant environmental areas.

HISTORY DRIVER PROJECT – GROUNDBREAKING GREEKS



Our Changing World – **companion project**

This essential skills and knowledge project revises the features of Earth, time zones and lines of latitude and longitude to pinpoint places on a map. Children find out more about map scales, grid references, contour lines and map symbols. They learn about climate change and the importance of global trade. Children analyse data and carry out fieldwork to find out about local road safety. They study patterns of human settlements and carry out an enquiry to describe local settlement patterns.

HISTORY DRIVER PROJECT - MAAFA



Frozen Kingdoms

This project teaches children about the characteristics and features of polar regions, including the North and South Poles, and includes a detailed exploration of the environmental factors that shape and influence them.

HISTORY DRIVER PROJECT – BRITAIN AT WAR

Impact

Children are assessed by their teacher during each session and by the work completed in their books. Regular quizzes at the start of each session help to check recall and bridge gaps. We assess pupils in their substantive knowledge (the facts that we want them to learn) and in their disciplinary knowledge (the skills required and used in the study of geography). Our curriculum also encompasses knowledge of the key concepts of geography. The substantive knowledge may be linked to a single topic or unit of geography (although similar areas often overlap and are explored through different units or locations) but the disciplinary knowledge will be built upon and developed right from early years, through key stage 1, lower key stage 2 and upper key stage 2, in preparation for further study of geography at secondary level.

Our children will leave Churchstanton with a clear understanding of what it means to be a geographer and a wide variety of knowledge and skills to support that.