



Geography at Blaby Stokes



Humanities at Blaby Stokes aims to teach our children historical and geographical skills, knowledge and understanding. Children will be able to undertake their place as a global citizen through their knowledge and understanding of the world, its history and its people. We believe children should see themselves as an important part of the society that surrounds them. They should be encouraged to have a curiosity about the differing people and events in their world now and long ago as well as understand the interdependence of lands, cultures and of different generations within a global ecosystem.

We use a variety of teaching and learning styles in both history and geography lessons. Our principal aim is to develop children's knowledge, skills, and understanding.

In Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 the majority of the humanities teaching is through the 'Cornerstones' scheme of work, which offer a cross curricular approach to learning. When this is not possible, key skills and knowledge will be taught in isolation. Whenever possible we try to use our local environment to stimulate the children's interest. Topics build upon prior learning, ensuring that there are opportunities for children of all abilities to develop their skills and knowledge in each unit. Each topic begins with a memorable experience designed to fascinate and stimulate pupils' interest. Progression is built into the scheme of work, so that the children are increasingly challenged as they move up through the school. Whenever possible, pupils will be given the opportunity to widen their knowledge, understanding and experience through attending appropriate field trips. These will usually be part of a unit's 'memorable experience'.

The geography curriculum consists of human & physical knowledge, locational knowledge, place knowledge and geographical skills and fieldwork.

Throughout Key Stage 1, the children will:

- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- Use world maps, atlases and 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 on 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.

Throughout Key Stage 2, the children will:

- Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle.
- Describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.
- Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities.
- Name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.
- Identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night).
- Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America.

- *Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.*
- *Use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world.*
- *Use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.*