



Geography Curriculum Overview





Geography at Bridge Junior School

Children learn about their local area, the United Kingdom and the wider world. They use maps, fieldwork and data to understand places and how people and environments are connected.

A sense of place

Children locate places from Spinney Hill and Leicester to the wider world. They use maps, atlases, globes and geographical reference points.

People and environments

Children explore human and physical geography, learning how environments shape people's lives and how people use and change places.

Geographical enquiry

Children ask geographical questions, carry out fieldwork, study maps and data, compare places and explain patterns and connections.

Geography helps children understand where places are, what they are like and how they are connected. It helps them see their own community as part of a changing world.



What we want our children to know...

Big Ideas

Children meet important ideas again and again:

- place and location
- human and physical features
- environment and interdependence
- settlement and land use
- climate and natural processes
- resources, trade and globalisation

Knowledge

Children learn about countries, continents, cities and regions across the UK and wider world, alongside rivers, mountains, hazards, climate, resources and trade.

Skills

Children use maps, atlases, globes and digital mapping. They build compass, grid-reference, fieldwork and data skills, then compare and explain places.



How we teach Geography at Bridge...

Geography units are sequenced so children revisit important ideas and apply increasingly precise map, enquiry and fieldwork skills.

1

Remember

Children begin by recalling places, vocabulary and skills they already know.

2

Locate

Children use maps, globes and reference points to locate the new place.

3

Explore place

Children study maps, images, texts, data and the features of a place.

4

Investigate

Children gather evidence, compare places and explain patterns.

5

Share and apply

Children explain conclusions through maps, writing, graphs, discussion or presentation.

Adapted for our school

Planning follows the National Curriculum and is supported by PKC. Bridge medium-term plans make learning meaningful through Leicester and local links.

Experiences

Children learn through atlases, globes, digital maps, practical models, fieldwork, local walks, data, research and visits where possible.



How we know that our children are doing well...

They locate

Children can locate places and features using maps, globes and geographical reference points.

They explain

Children use geographical vocabulary to explain what places are like and why patterns occur.

They investigate

Children use fieldwork, maps, images and data to answer geographical questions.

They make links

Children connect people, places and environments from their local area to the wider world.

What teachers check

Teachers use questioning, retrieval, discussion, maps, fieldwork outcomes, written work, end-of-unit checks and subject-leader monitoring to see what pupils know and can do.

What success looks like

Children become confident geographers. They choose useful maps and evidence, compare places carefully, explain people–environment links and stay curious about a changing world.



TERM PLAN

Geography Units at Bridge...

Year Group	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3
Year 3	Settlements UK	Rivers	Natural Disasters Japan
Year 4	Our European Neighbours Europe	A Third of the World India and China	Mountains UK
Year 5	North America Spatial Sense	Out of Africa Africa	East 17 East Midlands and East Anglia
Year 6	South America Spatial Sense	Globalisation	—

Why it is sequenced this way?

Children begin with familiar local and UK geography, then broaden their knowledge across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas. Map, fieldwork and enquiry skills become increasingly precise before Year 6 pupils apply them to South America and globalisation.



What children learn about in each year group...

Year 3

Settlements

Children learn why settlements develop where they do and how rivers, resources and transport shape them. They compare local settlements in Leicester and use compass points, grid references and Ordnance Survey symbols.

Rivers

Children locate major world rivers, learn the journey from source to mouth and explore erosion, deposition, dams, pollution and human use. Local learning includes the River Soar.

Natural Disasters

Children locate Japan and investigate tectonic plates, earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, flooding and extreme weather. They consider impacts, risk reduction and examples from Leicestershire.

Year 4

Our European Neighbours

Children locate European countries, cities and regions using atlases, maps and four-figure grid references. They study the Mediterranean coast, compare regions and explain how human and physical features influence major cities.

A Third of the World

Children locate India and China within Asia using latitude and longitude. They compare landscapes, rivers, cities, population and landmarks, including the Himalayas, Gobi Desert, Indus and Ganges.

Mountains

Children locate UK peaks and ranges, learn how different mountain types form and study the Peak District. They compare mountainous areas with Leicester and explain links between landscape, settlement and work.



What children learn about in each year group...

Year 5

North America

Children locate countries, states and major cities, use the Tropic of Cancer and Prime Meridian, and explore time zones. They compare contrasting cities and explain how physical geography influences settlement and land use.

Out of Africa

Children study Africa's countries, cities, regions and major physical features, including the Sahara, savanna, Great Lakes, Congo Basin and mountains. They investigate how environments shape people's lives, work and land use.

East 17

Children locate counties and cities in the East Midlands and East Anglia using maps, compass points and six-figure grid references. Fieldwork compares Spinney Hill with wider regional patterns of land use, employment and physical features.

Year 6

South America

Children accurately locate countries, cities and major human and physical features across South America. They use latitude, longitude, tropics, grid references and time zones, compare contrasting places and analyse population, climate and infrastructure data to justify geographical decisions.

Globalisation

Children investigate international trade and how products connect countries through resources, manufacture and transport. They map supply routes, estimate manufacturing miles, explain the growth of global hubs and apply their learning to locating a possible factory in Leicester.



LOCAL LINKS

Local links in our Geography curriculum...

Local fieldwork and Leicester examples help children connect Geography with places they know and the wider world.

1

Spinney Hill

Children compare settlements, land use, services and human and physical features in their local area.

2

River Soar

Children locate Leicester's river, compare it with world rivers and explore its journey, uses and importance.

3

Local flooding

Children study flood risk, Storm Babet's effects in Leicestershire and ways communities can build resilience.

4

Volcanic Leicestershire

Bradgate Park and Bardon Hill help children see how ancient volcanic activity shaped the local landscape.

5

Peak District

Children compare a nearby mountainous region with Leicester, including landscape, settlement, tourism and employment.

6

Leicester trade

Children connect local textiles, transport links and manufacturing decisions with international trade and globalisation.



Vocabulary for new to English learners...

These high-utility words help pupils take part in Geography lessons. They are useful beyond one topic.

LOCATION WORDS

north	left
south	right
east	above
west	below
near	local
far	

MAP WORDS

map	home
place	near
road	far
river	left
school	right

PLACES AND FEATURES

country	mountain
continent	coast
city	ocean
town	land
village	world
river	

THINKING WORDS

place	same
here	different
there	big
near	small
far	change
left	
right	

HUMAN AND PHYSICAL

people	water
home	rock
road	weather
factory	climate
farm	resource
building	

SPEAKING STEMS

I can locate...

The map shows...

This place is...

It is similar because...

It is different because...

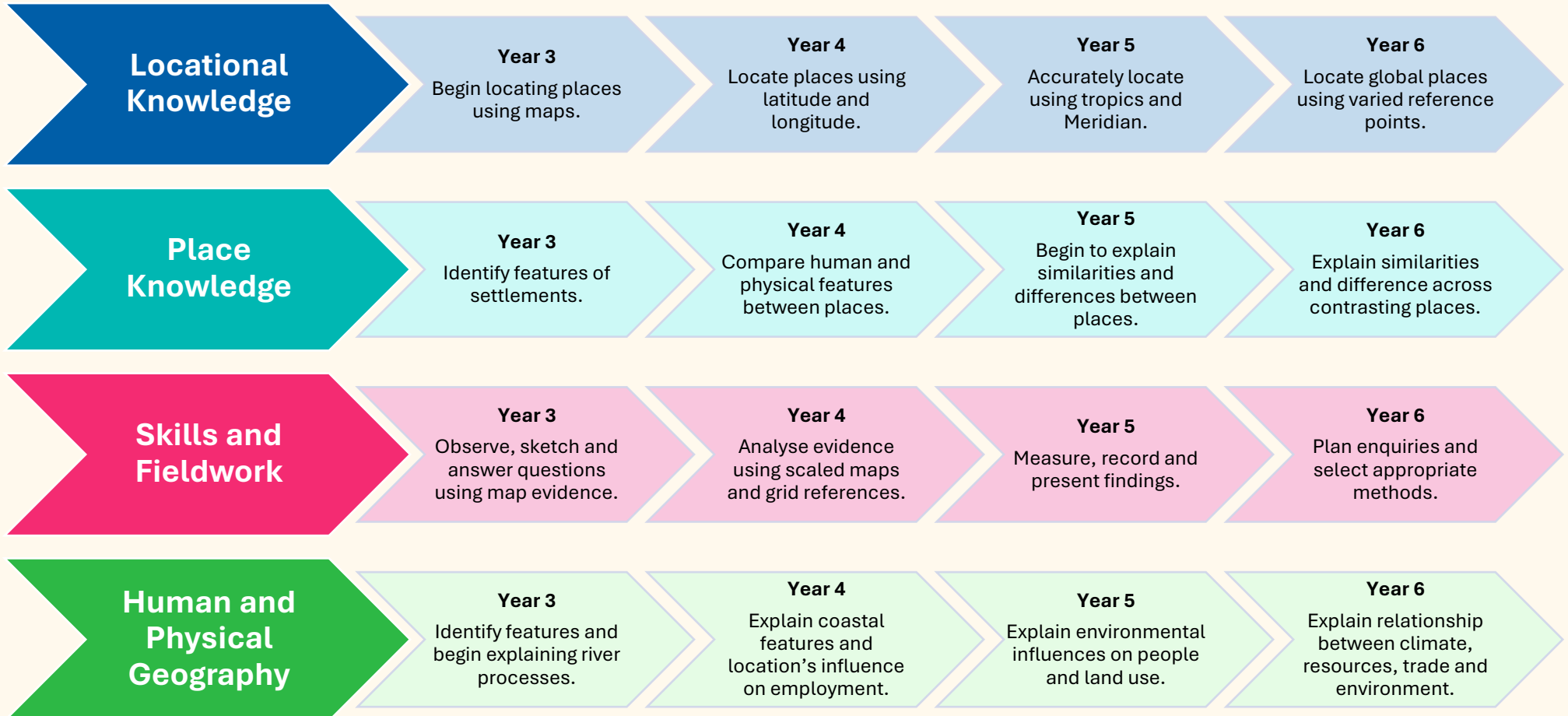


Vocabulary across the school...

Year Group	Year and topic	Words geographers use	Topic vocabulary
Year 3	Settlements		
	Rivers		
	Natural Disasters		
Year 4	European Neighbours		
	India and China		
	Mountains		
Year 5	North America		
	Out of Africa		
	East 17		
Year 6	South America		
	Globalisation		



How geographical thinking builds over time...





THE LINKS

Geography at home...

Look at maps

Use paper or digital maps to find places from books, the news, journeys and family connections.

Talk about location

Use north, south, east, west, near, far, local and global when talking about routes and places.

Notice geography

Spot human and physical features on walks: roads, homes, shops, rivers, land, weather and vegetation.

Compare places

Ask what is the same, what is different and why. Connect local places with places studied at school.

New to English learners

Talk about journeys and local places, revisit key words and let children explain ideas in their first language before sharing them in English. Pictures and sentence stems can help.

Useful questions

Where is it?
What is it like?
Which features are human or physical?
Why is it there? What has changed?
How is it connected to other places?