



Geography Vision & Intent

Overall Vision

Within Geography at Elm Tree we believe that understanding the world around us is essential for nurturing informed, engaged, and compassionate citizens. Our Geography curriculum is designed not only to equip our young learners with essential knowledge but also to ignite their curiosity about the diverse environments, cultures, and global issues that shape our lives.

Geography is taught as an immersive and interactive subject. We believe that children learn best through experiences and exciting learning, so lessons often extend beyond the classroom. Fieldwork, community engagement projects, and hands-on activities create a rich learning environment that encourages pupils to connect with their local surroundings while gaining a broader understanding of the world.

By the end of Early years & Key Stage 1

National Curriculum

Pupils should develop knowledge about the world, the United Kingdom and their locality. They should understand basic subject-specific vocabulary relating to human and physical geography and begin to use geographical skills, including first-hand observation, to enhance their locational awareness.

The curriculum allows pupils to learn to identify the world's seven continents, five oceans, and the countries, capital cities, and surrounding seas of the United Kingdom. They compare human and physical geography in a small UK area with a contrasting non-European location and explore UK weather patterns as well as global hot and cold regions. Pupils use basic geographical vocabulary to describe physical features like rivers, mountains, and coasts, and human features such as towns, ports, and shops. They also develop practical geographical skills by using maps, globes, simple compass directions, aerial photographs, and fieldwork to observe and map their school environment and its surrounding features.

At Elm Tree we prioritise:

Locational Knowledge

- Develop early map awareness by identifying the United Kingdom, its four countries, and capital cities.
- Name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans.
- Recognise simple landmarks and features in the local area.

Place Knowledge

- Explore the geography of the school environment and compare it with a contrasting place outside Europe.
- Notice similarities and differences in human and physical features between places.
- Build curiosity about the wider world through stories, images, and simple maps.

Human and Physical Geography

- Identify daily and seasonal weather patterns in the UK.
- Locate hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the Poles.
- Use simple geographical vocabulary to describe features such as forests, rivers, cities, towns, and villages.

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

- Use maps, globes, and atlases to find countries, continents, and oceans.
- Use basic compass directions (North, South, East, West) and positional language such as *near/far* and *left/right*.
- Observe the school grounds, identify human and physical features, and record findings using simple maps and symbols.

By the end of Key Stage 1, Pupils will have experienced:

Locational Knowledge

- The United Kingdom is made up of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.
- Each country has a capital city (London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast).
- The UK is surrounded by several seas.
- The world has seven continents and five oceans, and pupils should recognise their names and their positions on a simple map or globe.

Place Knowledge

- Their local area has features that can be described as human (made by people) or physical (natural).
- Different places in the world can be compared using similarities and differences.
- A contrasting non-European location will look and feel different to where they live.

Human and Physical Geography

- The UK has seasonal weather patterns (e.g., warmer in summer, colder in winter).
- The Equator, North Pole, and South Pole help us understand hot and cold places around the world.
- Key physical features include: river, mountain, hill, beach, coast, forest, valley.
- Key human features include: city, town, village, farm, port, harbour, shop.

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

- How to use maps, atlases, and globes to find simple locations.
- How to use simple compass directions: North, South, East, West.
- How to follow and create a simple map using symbols and a key.
- How to observe and describe geographical features of their school and local area.

- How to use aerial photographs to identify features from above.

By the end of Key Stage 2

National Curriculum

Pupils should develop a detailed understanding of the world, the United Kingdom, and selected regions in Europe and the Americas, focusing on countries, major cities, environmental regions, and key human and physical features. They learn to describe physical geography, including climate zones, rivers, mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes, biomes, and the water cycle, as well as human geography, such as settlements, land use, trade, and resource distribution. Pupils also develop locational knowledge using latitude, longitude, the Equator, hemispheres, time zones, and key lines of latitude and longitude. They enhance practical skills by using maps, atlases, globes, digital mapping, grid references, symbols, and Ordnance Survey maps, and carry out fieldwork to observe, measure, and record human and physical features locally.

At Elm Tree we prioritise:

Locational Knowledge

- Develop understanding of the countries, cities, and regions of the UK, Europe, and the wider world.
- Identify and locate continents, oceans, hemispheres, and major lines of latitude and longitude.
- Understand the position and significance of the Equator, Tropics, Arctic and Antarctic Circles, Prime Meridian, and time zones.

Place Knowledge

- Compare and contrast the human and physical geography of a UK region with regions in Europe and the Americas.
- Recognise how physical and human features shape places and influence how people live.
- Understand changes over time in landscapes, settlements, and land use.

Human and Physical Geography

- Describe key physical processes and features, including rivers, mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes, climate zones, biomes, and the water cycle.
- Explore human geography, including settlements, land use, economic activity, trade links, and distribution of resources.

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

- Use maps, atlases, globes, digital mapping, and Ordnance Survey maps to locate and describe places.
- Apply compass directions, grid references, symbols, and keys to interpret maps.
- Conduct fieldwork to observe, measure, record, and present human and physical features in the local environment.

By the end of Key Stage 2, pupils will have experienced:

Locational Knowledge

- The United Kingdom includes England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, with key regions, cities, and topographical features such as hills, mountains, rivers, and coasts.
- Pupils can locate and describe countries and major cities in Europe, North and South America, and understand their physical and human characteristics.
- The world has seven continents and five oceans, and pupils understand hemispheres, the Equator, Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circles, and time zones.

Place Knowledge

- Pupils compare regions of the UK with regions in Europe and the Americas, identifying similarities and differences in human and physical geography.
- They understand how landscapes, settlements, and land use have changed over time.

Human and Physical Geography

- Pupils describe key physical features and processes, including climate zones, biomes, rivers, mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes, and the water cycle.
- Pupils describe key human features, including settlements, land use, economic activity, trade links, and the distribution of natural resources.

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

- Pupils use maps, atlases, globes, digital mapping, and Ordnance Survey maps to locate places and describe features.
- They use compass directions, grid references, symbols, and keys to interpret and create maps.
- Pupils carry out fieldwork to observe, measure, record, and present human and physical features in the local area, and interpret aerial photographs and satellite images.