

Year 4 Geography Unit: Mountains Volcanoes Earthquakes and Tsunamis

In this unit children will build on their existing knowledge of mountain ranges in the UK and particularly the Lake District. They will explain how volcanoes form, observe the global pattern of volcanoes correctly and suggest plausible geographical reasons for this distribution. They will explain how earthquakes and tsunamis happen and the impact these natural disasters have on people and the environment.

By the end of the unit children must:

- To name and describe the layers of the earth.
- To describe what happens at the boundaries between the Earth's plates.
- To explain why earthquakes occur.
- To explain why tsunamis occur.
- To locate and name some mountains and volcanoes across the world.

They will be given the opportunity to:

- Question and respond to geographical questions about a locality, offering own ideas and observations.
- Use satellite images, digital images and aerial photos to investigate a locality.
- Use maps with a variety of scales to locate places where significant earthquakes and volcanoes have occurred (e.g. the Pacific 'Ring of Fire')
- Make a reasoned geographical judgement, using evidence and logical argument, as to whether earthquakes are more dangerous than volcanoes.

These are some suggested objectives to support the teaching of this unit

Sense of Place

- Begin to recognise and identify climate zones.
- Identify and describe physical features and explain how they affect settlement locations (+/- living near a volcano)
- Recognise how some places in the world are linked to others
- Make comparisons between places, describing the human, physical and climate features.
- Use maps to locate and name some mountains and volcanoes across the world.
- To name and describe the layers of the earth. (crust mantle core).
- To describe what happens at the boundaries between the Earth's plates.
- Describe and explain the key features of a volcano.
- To explain why earthquakes, occur.
- To explain why tsunamis, occur.
- To describe the impact of natural disasters.

Map Skills

- Use and follow directions using 8 compass points.
- Use pairs of co-ordinates to identify features on a map.
- Use maps with a variety of scales to locate places.

Fieldwork

Geographical Enquiry/Using Sources

- Use satellite images, digital images and aerial photos to investigate a locality.
- Offer plausible explanations for the location of some human features.
- Ask and respond to geographical questions about a locality, offering own ideas and observations.

Environment

- Understand how and why environments have changed over time and reach conclusions and make judgements about the positive and negative impact of these changes on the ways of life of the people.

Useful information for Teachers to support the children in learning more and remembering more

Builds on:

Year 3- The UK mountains and The Lake District.

Future Learning:

Year 5- Mountains in Greece

Year 5- North America – San Andreas fault