

	Topic	Key inquiry question(s)	Core knowledge and concepts	Prior learning link	Knowledge Organiser link
Year 7					
Autumn	Introduction to spatial and environmental geography, global and local scale orientation, atlas skills, river landforms along the river profile, flooding causes, and river management strategies	What is geography, how do physical and human geography interact, and why is geographical understanding vital for our world? How do we use atlases, grid references, and scale to locate places from a local scale up to global continents and oceans? How do river processes shape landforms from source to mouth, and how do humans manage river flooding?	Foundations of Geography & Spatial Literacy: - What is geography? defining physical geography (natural processes like weather, rocks, and rivers) versus human geography (communities, cities, and economics) and environmental geography. - Global orientation: identifying the seven continents, five oceans, key lines of latitude (Equator, Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circles), and prime meridian. - UK and local geography: mapping the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom, surrounding seas, major mountain ranges and rivers, and identifying local physical and human landmarks. - Atlas & Map Skills: mastering four-figure and six-figure grid references, compass directions (8-point compass), scale bars, map symbols, and reading contour lines to determine height and relief. Rivers & Flooding: - The River Profile: understanding the long profile of a river from its source in the upper course to its mouth in the lower course. - River Processes: exploring erosion (hydraulic action, abrasion, attrition, solution), transportation (traction, saltation, suspension, solution), and deposition. - Upper course features: formation of V-shaped valleys, interlocking spurs, waterfalls, and gorges. - Middle & Lower course features: formation of meanders, oxbow lakes, floodplains, and levees. - Flooding causes: evaluating natural causes (heavy rainfall, snowmelt, impermeable rock) and human causes (deforestation, urbanization) that increase surface runoff. - River management: contrasting hard engineering techniques (dams, levees, channelisation) with soft engineering strategies (afforestation, floodplain zoning, river restoration) to assess their cost, effectiveness, and environmental impact.	Builds on Key Stage 2 Primary Geography (basic UK map skills, locating continents/oceans, and general knowledge of the water cycle).	Introduction to Poetry Knowledge Organiser Rivers and Flooding Knowledge Organiser
Spring	Mastering Ordnance Survey (OS) map reading, scale, and journey planning alongside exploring Africa's diverse biomes, population dynamics, economic development, and conservation challenges	How do geographers use Ordnance Survey maps, symbols, scale, and grid references to navigate terrain and plan real-world journeys? Why is it inaccurate to treat Africa as a single monolithic entity, and how do physical, economic, and social contrasts define the continent? How are African nations developing, and how can conservation strategies balance biodiversity protection with community livelihoods?	Ordnance Survey Map Skills & Journey Planning: - What are maps? understanding maps as two-dimensional aerial representations of three-dimensional landscapes using simplified visual conventions. - OS map reading & symbols: identifying standard Ordnance Survey map symbols, keys, and contour lines to interpret landscape features, elevation, and human settlement. - Distance and scale: converting map measurements to real-world distances using ratio scales (e.g., 1:25,000 and 1:50,000) and line scale bars. - Grid references: mastering precision navigation using four-figure grid references for general grid squares and six-figure grid references for pinpoint accuracy. - Journey planning: comparing traditional navigation tools (OS paper maps, compass bearing route planning) with digital methods (GIS, GPS tracking, online route mapping apps) to assess efficiency, reliability, and accessibility. Africa: Continent of Contrasts: - Diverse populations & demographics: examining Africa's 54 distinct nations, rapid urbanization trends, mega-cities (e.g., Lagos, Cairo), and rural-to-urban population movement. - Economic realities ("Is Africa rich or poor?"): challenging oversimplified stereotypes by examining the distribution of immense natural wealth (minerals, oil, fertile land) alongside historical trade inequalities, infrastructure gaps, and wealth disparity. - Conservation & ecosystems: investigating biodiversity in biomes such as savannas and rainforests, and evaluating conservation approaches (eco-tourism, anti-poaching, national parks) vs. local agricultural needs. - Development trajectories: analysing how African nations are developing through technology (e.g., mobile banking like M-Pesa), renewable energy projects, trade agreements, and foreign investment.	Builds on Year 7 Autumn map fundamentals (basic atlas skills, global orientation, four-figure grid references) and physical river management concepts.	Map Skills Knowledge Organiser Africa Knowledge Organiser

Summer	The role and structure of the United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), global interconnectedness, and a collaborative Culture Show project showcasing world human and physical geography	What is the United Nations, how does it promote peace, human rights, and sustainable development across the globe, and why is international cooperation vital? How do physical geography, climate, history, and human activities shape the unique cultures and identities of different nations? How can we research, synthesise, and present complex geographical data to celebrate global diversity through a collaborative Culture Show project?	The United Nations & Global Governance: - Origins & purpose: understanding why the United Nations (UN) was established following the Second World War to foster international peace, security, human rights, and diplomatic cooperation. - UN structure: exploring key UN organs and agencies (such as the General Assembly, Security Council, UNICEF, UNESCO, and the UNHCR). - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): examining the UN's 17 global goals aimed at ending poverty, reducing inequality, tackling climate change, protecting oceans and forests, and ensuring justice by 2030. - Global peacekeeping & humanitarian aid: evaluating how the UN responds to global crises, natural disasters, conflict zones, and refugee movements. The Culture Show Project (Synoptic Investigation): - Country case study research: investigating a chosen country's physical landscape (climate, landforms, biomes) and human landscape (population, economy, traditions, urban developments). - Cultural geography: examining how geographical features (such as rivers, coastlines, agricultural land, and mountain barriers) influence national traditions, cuisine, architecture, clothing, and music. - Data synthesis & communication: selecting relevant demographic data, maps, photographs, and historical facts to build an engaging visual presentation or display for a cohort-wide Culture Show. - Peer evaluation & global appreciation: presenting findings, listening to peer showcases, and reflecting on how global interconnectedness shapes modern daily life in the UK and worldwide.	Builds on Year 7 Autumn global locations, UK/local geography, and river landscapes, as well as Year 7 Spring map reading, grid references, and the Africa: A Continent of Contrasts development study.	United Nations Knowledge Organiser
Year 8					
Autumn	Revision of Year 7 language foundations, family demographics, local and international geographies of place, number literacy, and complex sentence structures	How do our immediate family structures and living environments reflect broader demographic and socio-economic patterns? How do geographers describe and categorise human settlements from local towns to international regions? How do we use complex expressions to discuss hypothetical living arrangements and future spatial development?	Consolidation & Demographics: - Revising Year 7 foundations: consolidating core geographical terminology, spatial literacy, and basic description skills established in Year 7. - My family & demographics: analysing family structures, household sizes, and age demographics, and understanding how family units fit into population data. - Describing family members: characterising individuals using accurate descriptive attributes and exploring how family identities connect to local culture. Geography of Settlement & Place: - Where I live (Countries & towns): investigating local, regional, and national settlements, comparing urban and rural living environments, and understanding town hierarchies. - Revision of numbers (1–50): mastering quantitative data skills, reading population counts, statistics, street numbers, and basic demographic figures accurately. Advanced Expressions & Hypotheticals: - Hypothetical situations (The Conditional): expressing preferences about where one would like to live, ideal housing conditions, and potential future town improvements ("I would prefer to live in..."). - Wishes & Requirements (The Subjunctive): formulating requirements and ideal scenarios for community planning and environmental standards ("It is necessary that our town have...").	Builds on Year 7 Autumn UK and local area geography, Year 7 Spring population dynamics and settlement patterns, and Year 7 Summer global governance and cultural studies.	

Spring	Global ecosystem distribution, tropical rainforest biomes, adaptation, deforestation, and European political geography including governance, transboundary rivers, and migration	How do climate patterns determine the distribution of global biomes, and how are tropical rainforests adapted to thrive in these conditions? What are the causes and consequences of tropical deforestation, and why are rainforests globally significant? How do political borders, European governance, and transboundary rivers shape human interaction, economic development, and migration across Europe?	Global Biomes & The Tropical Rainforest: - Global ecosystem distribution: understanding how climate zones (temperature, precipitation, and latitude) dictate the spatial location of major biomes (e.g., tropical rainforests, deserts, savannas, deciduous forests, tundra). - The Tropical Rainforest biome: exploring the layered structure of the rainforest (emergent layer, canopy, understorey, forest floor) and its nutrient cycling. - Plant & animal adaptations: analysing how flora (e.g., drip-tip leaves, buttress roots, lianas) and fauna (e.g., camouflage, specialized diets, prehensile tails) have adapted to warm, humid, and dense canopy environments. - Importance of rainforests: evaluating the global value of rainforests, including carbon storage, oxygen production, biodiversity reservoirs, indigenous culture preservation, and medicine production. - Deforestation: investigating driver causes (cattle ranching, commercial farming, logging, mining, road construction) and consequences (habitat loss, soil erosion, contribution to global climate change, indigenous displacement). Political Geography of Europe: - What is Europe? defining Europe as a continent through physical boundaries (Ural Mountains, Mediterranean Sea) and cultural, economic, and political concepts. - The River Danube (Transboundary River): examining the Danube as an international waterway crossing 10 countries, illustrating transboundary water management, trade, geopolitical cooperation, and pollution challenges. - European governance & The European Union: understanding the role of international alliances, the structure and history of the European Union (EU), trade agreements, single market dynamics, and common environmental policies. - Migration in Europe: analysing patterns, causes (push and pull factors, conflict, economic opportunity), and impacts of internal EU migration and international refugee movements across European borders.	Builds on Year 7 Autumn river profiles and management, Year 7 Spring ecosystem and conservation studies in Africa, and Year 7 Summer global governance (the UN and SDGs).	
Summer	Global distribution, security, management, and sustainability of water and energy resources	Why are water and energy resources unevenly distributed across the globe, and what causes resource insecurity? How do human activities, population growth, and industrialisation impact demand for water and energy? How can we balance resource extraction with environmental conservation to ensure a sustainable future?	Water Resources & Management: - Global water supply & insecurity: distinguishing between physical water scarcity (lack of natural water supply) and economic water scarcity (lack of infrastructure to access clean water). - Factors affecting water availability: examining how climate, geology, pollution, over-extraction, and agricultural demand drive global water stress. - Increasing water supply: evaluating large-scale technological solutions (dams, reservoirs, water transfer schemes, and desalination plants) alongside small-scale sustainable strategies (rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling, and water metering). - Water conflict & transboundary management: investigating how shared river basins and aquifers can lead to geopolitical tension or international cooperation. Energy Resources & Sustainable Futures: - Global energy mix: categorising energy sources into non-renewable (coal, oil, natural gas), nuclear, and renewable energy (solar, wind, hydroelectric, geothermal, biomass). - Energy security & demand: analysing how economic development, technological advancements, and population growth increase global energy consumption. - Impacts of energy extraction: evaluating the environmental, social, and economic consequences of fossil fuel combustion (carbon emissions, air pollution, global warming) versus habitat disruption from large-scale renewable projects. - Sustainable energy strategies: exploring energy conservation techniques, increasing energy efficiency in transportation and housing, and transitioning towards a low-carbon energy grid.	Builds on Year 8 Spring biomes, deforestation, and transboundary management (River Danube), as well as Year 7 Autumn river management and Year 7 Summer UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).	
Year 9					

Autumn	Earth's internal structure, plate boundary mechanics, volcanic and earthquake hazard management, economic development metrics, and rapid development in Southeast Asia	How do physical processes inside the Earth drive tectonic activity, and how do plate boundary interactions produce earthquakes and volcanoes? How can societies reduce risk and manage the impacts of tectonic hazards through prediction, protection, and preparation? How do we measure global development, and what factors explain the rapid socio-economic growth seen across Southeast Asia?	Tectonic Processes & Hazards: • Structure of the Earth: identifying the characteristics of the inner core, outer core, mantle, and crust (oceanic vs. continental), and understanding heat engines and convection currents. • Plate boundaries: exploring tectonic movement at constructive (divergent), destructive (convergent/subduction), conservative (transform), and collision margins. • Earthquakes & Volcanic hazards: analysing the primary and secondary causes and impacts of seismic activity and volcanic eruptions (ash clouds, pyroclastic flows, lahars, tsunamis). • Hazard management: evaluating strategies used to reduce vulnerability, including monitoring, prediction, building design (earthquake-proof engineering), evacuation planning, and emergency response. International Development & Southeast Asia: • Defining & measuring development: understanding development as the improvement of quality of life and economic wealth, and contrasting economic indicators (Gross National Income per capita) with social metrics (Human Development Index, life expectancy, literacy rates). • Development factors & gap: examining physical, historical, and economic reasons why countries develop at different rates. • Development in Southeast Asia: investigating case study evidence of rapid economic transition, globalisation, industrialisation, foreign investment, and urban expansion across Southeast Asian nations (such as Singapore, Vietnam, or Malaysia). • Challenges of rapid growth: assessing environmental trade-offs, income inequality, and infrastructure pressure associated with accelerated regional development.	Builds on Year 7 Autumn map skills and physical landforms, Year 7 Spring development studies (Africa: A Continent of Contrasts), Year 7 Summer UN SDGs, and Year 8 resource distribution.	
Spring	Globalisation mechanisms, international trade flows, transnational corporations (TNCs), global supply chains, biosphere structures, ecosystem goods and services, and resource consumption theories	What is globalisation, what technological and economic drivers accelerate it, and how does it connect global producers with consumers? How do transnational corporations (TNCs) shape international trade, employment, and local environments across developing and developed nations? How does the biosphere sustain human life through ecosystem goods and services, and how do Malthusian and Boserupian theories explain the balance between population growth and resource consumption?	Globalisation & International Trade: • What is globalisation? defining globalisation as the growing interdependence and integration of the world's economies, cultures, and populations. • Causes of globalisation: analysing key drivers, including advancements in containerisation, jet transport, telecommunications, internet digitalisation, reduced trade barriers, and international trade agreements. • Trade & global goods: understanding imports, exports, balance of trade, and tracking global supply chains from raw material extraction to manufacturing and consumer delivery. • Transnational Corporations (TNCs): investigating the role of major global brands, foreign direct investment (FDI), economic impacts (job creation vs. profit repatriation), and environmental/labour practices in host countries. People and the Biosphere: • What is the biosphere? exploring the global sum of all ecosystems, including how life interacts with the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere across different biomes. • Ecosystem goods and services: categorising natural provisions (food, fresh water, timber, medicines), regulating services (climate control, water purification), supporting services (soil formation, nutrient cycling), and cultural services (recreation, spiritual value). • Resource consumption theories: evaluating competing population and resource models, contrasting Thomas Malthus' pessimistic view (exponential population growth leading to resource depletion and famine) with Ester Boserup's optimistic theory (necessity drives technological innovation and resource expansion).	Builds on Year 7 Spring development and trade studies (Africa: A Continent of Contrasts), Year 8 Spring global biomes and European political geography, Year 8 Summer water and energy resource management, and Year 9 Autumn international development.	

Summer	Advanced biosphere dynamics, tropical rainforests and taiga biomes, deforestation drivers, sustainable forest management, and global energy consumption trends	How do physical conditions shape tropical rainforest and taiga forest ecosystems, and why are these biomes under increasing human threat? How can sustainable management strategies protect global forest ecosystems while addressing local economic needs? How does global demand for energy drive resource consumption, and what are the economic and environmental trade-offs of different energy futures?	People and the Biosphere: • Global ecosystem mechanics: investigating how climate, soil profiles, and nutrient cycles regulate biomes, with an in-depth focus on tropical rainforests and cold, high-latitude taiga (boreal) forests. • Ecosystem services: examining how large-scale forest ecosystems regulate global climate patterns, act as carbon sinks, protect watersheds, and support high levels of biodiversity. Forests Under Threat: • Drivers of forest degradation: evaluating direct causes of forest loss, including commercial agriculture, cattle ranching, timber extraction, mineral mining, bioenergy crop production, and climate-induced wildfire risks. • Impacts of deforestation: assessing the global and regional consequences of habitat fragmentation, soil degradation, hydrological disruption, and carbon emission spikes. • Sustainable forest management: investigating conservation strategies, including international agreement frameworks, protected national reserves, debt-for-nature swaps, selective logging, and community-led sustainable forestry initiatives. Consuming Energy Resources: • Global energy demand & consumption: analysing spatial variations in energy consumption per capita and understanding how population growth and economic development drive rising global demand. • Energy security & mix: examining non-renewable, nuclear, and renewable energy profiles, and exploring the geopolitical, environmental, and economic factors influencing energy choices. • Sustainable energy futures: evaluating energy conservation policies, efficiency technological advancements, and the transition toward low-carbon energy infrastructure.	Builds directly on Year 9 Spring globalisation, biosphere structures, and resource consumption theories, as well as Year 8 Spring tropical rainforest biomes and Year 8 Summer water and energy resources.	
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