



Intent

At Thorndon Primary School we aim for a high-quality well-sequenced Geography curriculum that develops children's geographical knowledge, skills and subject disciplines. We aim to give our children an appreciation of the world around them and their place within it. We take an investigative approach to our geography lessons to allow children to develop essential characteristics of geographers such as an excellence knowledge of place with the ability to describe and compare, excellent fieldwork skills and the ability to express and evaluate their findings.

We want our children to enjoy and love learning about Geography by gaining knowledge and skills not just in the classroom environment, but also with the use of fieldwork and educational visits taking place each term during our Hook Days and Fantastic Finishes. Where possible, our Geography topics will also be used to facilitate cross-curricular learning, such as researching and writing. As pupils progress through the curriculum, they will have multiple opportunities to revisit geographical skills and apply this to advance their knowledge of the world around them.

Implementation

At Thorndon, the teaching and implementation of the Geography Curriculum is based on the National Curriculum and is planned using Cornerstones: Curriculum Maestro (Mixed age planning Curriculum 23 model). The Cornerstones approach follows the structure of: Memorable Experience, Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express.

- **Memorable Experience** - Children will use a range of sources or artefacts to build a picture of an event, person, place or time that they will learn about in an exciting hook day linked to their topic. They will also have opportunities to attend school trips linked with their topic area in a fantastic finish to their topic for the term.
- **Engage** - children immerse themselves in their theme gaining knowledge, vocabulary and understanding.
- **Develop** - children build upon this knowledge to gain a deeper understanding
- and use their skills in a meaningful way to gain a better understanding of the world.
- **Innovate** - children broaden their understanding of the world to promote higher order thinking.
- **Express** - children reflect on their initial thoughts after research to formulate a well-thought-out opinion based on evidence.

Cornerstones Geography projects are well sequenced to provide a coherent subject scheme that develops children's skills (including: using geographical resources like maps, use the eight compass points and grid references and gather data as part of fieldwork) and knowledge (including: recognizing the continents and oceans, describe a range of human and physical features and applying locational knowledge). Children revisit and review their understanding of each of these areas as they progress through their primary school years.

Early Years

In early years the children follow the EYFS and learn about Geography through the Understanding of the World objectives.

Key stage 1

In KS1, children will:

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

Key stage 2

In KS2 children will:

- extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and Europe, North and South America.
- apply their knowledge of the characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features.
- develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.

Impact

Additionally, the children review and revise each previous lesson by looking back at the set question for the previous lesson and answering that question as well as they can from the previous week in green pen, building a bank of learnt knowledge as the topic progresses.

Formative assessment happens throughout every history lesson where teachers ask questions and make observations to gauge their classes' understanding.



Teachers use these assessments to offer on-the-spot support for children who require it and to inform future lesson planning. They also set a purple pen question for any children requiring extension work to extend their historical thinking further. At the end of each term (three times a year), the class teacher completes formal assessment by tracking the progress made against their year group's Geographical knowledge and skills. This is graded as: Expected or working towards expected.

At Thorndon Primary school we aim:

- For Geography topics to be taught in blocks periods that normally last a term.
- For Each new topic to allow the children to further develop their skills from their previous topics.
- To allow the children, at the beginning of each new topic, to revisit a previously taught piece of knowledge or skill to ensure they are developing their long-term memory and their 'sticky' knowledge.
- For Lessons to be taught with a big focus on key vocabulary. This is modelled by staff and the key vocabulary is easily accessible to all children within their classrooms. Children are encouraged to use this language themselves.
- For high expectations within geography lessons and our teachers ensure every student makes progress and experiences success within their lessons.
- For children to be introduced to a variety of geographical resources and enquiry-based learning is conducted.
- For the same expectations as we have in our English lessons when conducting writing in Geography to demonstrate the importance of Geography within our whole school curriculum.

By the time children leave Thorndon they will have a secure locational knowledge, knowing how to describe the location of significant places. They will be able to consider the geographical features of an environment, recognising the interconnected nature of people and places. Our children will be able to conduct fieldwork and apply the skills of data collection, recording, analysis and presentation. The children at Thorndon will have a passion for and commitment to the subject, and a sense of curiosity to find out about the world and the people who live there. They will learn about contemporary issues within the world, and the role that they as individuals have in making a difference.