

FS, KS1 and KS2 Progression of Skills – Geography – Skills, Knowledge and Understanding

	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Locational	Know about	Name and	Name, location	Locate the	Locate the world's	Locate the world's	Locate the
knowledge	similarities and	locate the	and identify	world's	countries, using	countries, using maps	world's
	differences in	world's seven	characteristics	countries, using	maps to focus on	to focus on Europe	countries, using
	relation to places.	continents and	of the four	maps to focus	Europe (including	(including the	maps to focus on
		five oceans.	countries and	on Europe	the location of	location of Russia)	Europe (including
	Talk about the		capital cities of	(including the	Russia) and North	and North and South	the location of
	features of their own	Name, location	the United	location of	and South America,	America,	Russia) and North
	immediate	and identify	Kingdom and	Russia) and	concentrating on	concentrating on	and South
	environment and	characteristics	its surrounding	North and South	their environmental	their environmental	America,
	how environments	of the four	areas.	America,	regions, key physical	regions, key physical	concentrating on
	might vary from one	countries and		concentrating	and human	and human	their
	another.	capital cities of		on their	characteristics,	characteristics,	environmental
		the United		environmental	countries, and major	countries, and major	regions, key
	Visit local	Kingdom and		regions, key	cities.	cities.	physical and
	places	its surrounding		physical and			human
	 Take photos 	areas.		human		Name and locate	characteristics,
	Read simple			characteristics,		counties and cities of	countries, and
	maps			countries, and		the United Kingdom,	major cities.
	• Use			major cities.		geographical regions	
	appropriate					and their identifying	Identify the
	words;			Name and		human and physical	position and
	village, town,			locate counties		characteristics, key	significance of
	road, path			and cities of the		topographical	latitude,
	etc.			United Kingdom,		features (including	longitude,
				geographical		hills, mountains,	Equator,
				regions and		coasts and rivers),	Northern
				their identifying		and land-use	Hemisphere,
				human and		patterns; and	Southern
				physical		understand how	Hemisphere, the



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				characteristics,		some of these	Tropics of Cancer
				key		aspects have changed	and Capricorn,
				topographical		over time.	Arctic and
				features			Antarctic Circle,
				(including hills,		Identify the position	the
				mountains,		and significance of	Prime/Greenwich
				coasts and		latitude, longitude,	Meridian and
				rivers), and land-		Equator, Northern	time zones
				use patterns;		Hemisphere,	(including day
				and understand		Southern	and night).
				how some of		Hemisphere, the	
				these aspects		Tropics of Cancer and	
				have changed		Capricorn, Arctic and	
				over time.		Antarctic Circle, the	
						Prime/Greenwich	
						Meridian and time	
						zones (including day	
						and night).	
Place	Know about	Understand	Understand	Understand	Understand	Understand	Understand
knowledge	similarities and	geographical	geographical	geographical	geographical	geographical	geographical
	differences in	similarities and	similarities and	similarities and	similarities and	similarities and	similarities and
	relation to places.	differences	differences	differences	differences through	differences through	differences
		through	through	through the	the study of human	the study of human	through the
	Talk about how	studying the	studying the	study of human	and physical	and physical	study of human
	environments might	human and	human and	and physical	geography of a	geography of a region	and physical
	differ from one	physical	physical	geography of a	region of the United	of the United	geography of a
	another.	geography of a	geography of a	region of the	Kingdom, a region in	Kingdom, a region in	region of the
		small area of	small area of	United Kingdom,	a European country,	a European country,	United Kingdom,
		the United	the United	a region in a	and a region in	and a region in North	a region in a
		Kingdom, and	Kingdom, and	European		or South America.	European



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		of a small area	of a small area	country, and a	North or South		country, and a
		in a	in a	region in North	America.		region in North
		contrasting	contrasting	or South			or South
		non-European	non-European	America.			America.
		country.	country.				
Human and	Explain why some	Identify	Use basic	Describe and		Describe and	
physical	things occur and talk	seasonal and	geographical	understand key		understand key	
geography	about changes (eg:	daily weather	vocabulary to	aspects of:		aspects of:	
	the four seasons).	patterns in the	refer to:	 physical 		 human 	
		United	 key physical 	geography,		geography,	
		Kingdom and	features,	including:		including:	
		the location of	including:	climate		types of	
		hot and cold	beach, cliff,	zones,		settlement	
		areas of the	coast,	biomes and		and land use,	
		world in	forest, hill,	vegetation		economic	
		relation to the	mountain,	belts, rivers,		activity	
		Equator and	sea, ocean,	mountains,		including	
		the North and	river, soil,	volcanoes		trade links,	
		South Poles.	valley,	and		and the	
			vegetation,	earthquakes,		distribution	
			season and	and the		of natural	
			weather	water cycle		resources	
			• key human			including	
			features,			energy, food,	
			including:			minerals and	
			city, town,			water	
			village,				
			factory,				
			farm,				
			house,				



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			office, port, harbour and shop				
Geographical skills and field work	Observe the features of different habitats. Read simple maps of familiar places. Use positional language (links to Maths: Shape, space and measure.	Use world maps, atlases and globes to identify the United Kingdom and its countries, as well as the countries, continents and oceans studied at this key stage. Use simple compass directions (north, south, east and west) and locational and directional language [for example, near and far, left and right], to describe the location of	Use simple compass directions (north, south, east and west) and locational and directional language [for example, near and far, left and right], to describe the location of features and routes on a map. Use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features; devise a simple	Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.	Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.	Use the 8 points of a compass, 4- and 6- figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world. Use fieldwork to observe, measure record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.	Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.



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	map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key. Use simple fieldwork and observational		
	observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding		
	environment.		