

Geography Vocabulary progression map

Early Years Foundation Stage

(Nursery & Reception, Ages 3–5)

Key Concepts:

- Understanding the world
- Exploring environments
- Basic location awareness

Vocabulary:

- Hot / Cold
- Sun / Rain / Snow / Wind
- Map
- Near / Far
- Home
- Road / Street
- House / School / Shop
- Hill / River / Tree / Sea
- Land / Water
- Weather
- Today / Tomorrow / Yesterday

Key Stage 1 (Year 1 & 2, Ages 5–7)

Key Concepts:

- Locational knowledge
- Place knowledge
- Human & physical features
- Simple maps

Year 1 Vocabulary:

- Country / City / Town / Village
- Capital city
- United Kingdom (UK), England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland
- Compass / North / South / East / West
- Beach / Cliff / Coast / Forest
- Map / Globe / Atlas
- Travel / Journey
- Seasons / Weather
- Human features (e.g., school, shop)
- Physical features (e.g., hill, river)

Year 2 Vocabulary:

- Continents (Asia, Africa, etc.)
- Oceans (Pacific, Atlantic, etc.)
- Equator / North Pole / South Pole
- Aerial view / Bird's eye view
- Direction / Route / Location
- Symbols / Key (on a map)
- Environment / Nature
- Pollution
- Local / Global

Key Stage 2 (Years 3–6, Ages 7–11)

Year 3 Vocabulary:

- Region / County
- Hemisphere / Latitude / Longitude
- Climate / Weather patterns
- River features (source, mouth, stream, waterfall)
- Settlement
- Urban / Rural
- Transport
- Agriculture
- Land use
- Natural resources

Year 4 Vocabulary:

- Grid reference (4-figure)
- OS (Ordnance Survey) map
- Erosion / Deposition
- Mountain / Valley / Plain / Plateau
- Earthquake / Volcano
- Biomes (e.g., desert, rainforest)
- Economy
- Industry
- Renewable / Non-renewable resources
- Tourism

Year 5 Vocabulary:

- Climate zones
- Time zones
- Topography
- Trade / Import / Export
- Globalisation
- Deforestation
- Sustainability

- Water cycle (evaporation, condensation, etc.)
- Human geography / Physical geography
- Demographic / Population

Year 6 Vocabulary:

- 6-figure grid reference
- Contour lines
- Migration
- Urbanisation
- Development (e.g., developed/developing countries)
- Natural disaster
- GIS (Geographical Information Systems)
- Economic activity
- Infrastructure
- Environmental impact