

United Curriculum

Primary Geography

Information for School Websites



United Curriculum
Primary
Part of United Learning



Principles of the Geography Curriculum



The United Curriculum for geography provides all children, regardless of their background, with:

- **Relevant** and **coherent substantive knowledge** of the world that is built gradually using **subject-specific pedagogy** from EYFS to Year 6 and beyond.
- Substantive knowledge – both conceptual and procedural – is selected to build pupils' understanding of three geographical **vertical concepts**:
 - **Space and Place**

Developing an understanding of space through ideas related to location, distribution, pattern and distance.

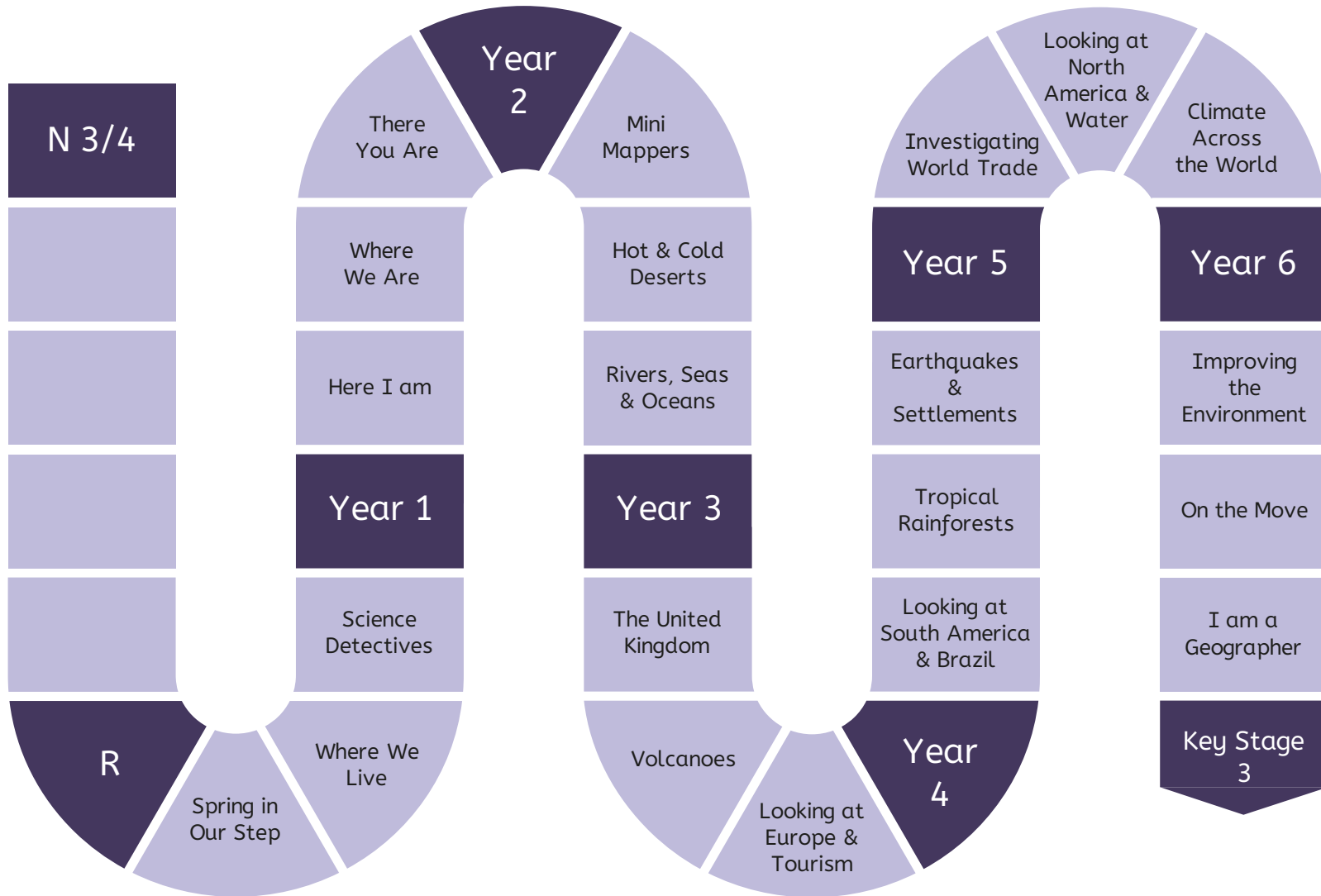
Developing a sense of place and character through ideas related to identity, home, community, landscapes and diversity, and examining a range of case studies from across the globe.
 - **Physical Processes**

How the Earth's natural processes shape and change the surface of the Earth. This includes both **Geology & Earth Science** aspects, such as the structure of the Earth and physical features we see on the land, as well as **Environmental Science** aspects, such as the weather and our changing climate. Both of these are threaded through the **science** curriculum too.
 - **Human Processes**

The processes and phenomena that are caused by or relate to people, including out Use of Resources; the distribution and changes to **Population & Communities**; and the features of **Economy & Development**.
- A balanced view of the countries of the world, to address or event preempt misconceptions and negative stereotypes.
- Explicit teaching of core **disciplinary knowledge**, and the ability to approach challenging, geographically-valid questions. Geographical enquiry skills have been sequenced across the year groups and, where appropriate, review and build on relevant knowledge that is **first taught in mathematics or science**, such as interpreting line graphs or setting hypotheses.
- Opportunities to undertake **fieldwork**, outside the classroom and virtually. Fieldwork is **purposeful**, and either gives pupils the opportunity to explicitly practise relevant disciplinary knowledge or to reinforce substantive knowledge.



United Curriculum: Geography



United Curriculum: Geography



	N3-4	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Autumn			Here I am [Aut 1] Locating our school in our local area, and identifying local physical and human features on a map and during fieldwork	Mini Mappers Studying the human and physical geography of the local area with an introduction to scale and fieldwork	United Kingdom [Aut 1] Locating the UK, Great Britain and the British Isles, and regions and counties; identifying physical features and regeneration of one region.	Looking at South America and Brazil Locating lines of longitude and latitude and South America; understanding Brazil's physical features and climate, and its human settlements in Rio De Janeiro.	Investigating world trade [Aut 1] Understanding the distribution of the world's natural resources and these are traded between places across the world	Improving the environment [Aut 2] Recognising the importance of renewable energy through investigating wind power. Reducing waste, and the actions that humans can take to improve the environment.
Spring		Spring in our step Weather and wildlife in winter and spring	Where we are Locating our local area in the UK; identifying the four countries of the UK; some key human and physical features	Hot and cold deserts [Spr 1] Locating hot and cold deserts, and identifying common physical and human features	Volcanoes Understanding the structure of the Earth; how volcanoes are formed; and the impacts they can have on human settlement using case studies of Etna and La Soufriere	Tropical rainforests [Spr 2] Understanding the key features of a rainforest ecosystem, the contributions they make to the world and threats they face (using Amazon Rainforest)	Looking at North America and Water Understanding the water cycle and the distribution of the world's water; examining the physical and human geography around rivers in North America.	On the move [Spr 1] Understanding push and pull factors in migration from the Northern Triangle to the USA, and Syria to countries in Europe; understanding the benefits of migration to the UK.
Summer		Where we live Picture maps and plan views, simple human and physical features Science detectives Comparing our community with settlements in Kenya	There you are Understanding where we live on the global scale; locating continents and comparing the human and physical features of an area in the UK with an area in Kenya	Rivers, seas and oceans Locating the seas around the UK and oceans of the world. Identifying physical and human features around rivers and coastal areas	Looking at Europe and Tourism [Sum 1] Comparing the human and physical features of the Alps, the Amalfi Coast, and a local area, and exploring the impact of tourism in these areas	Earthquakes and human settlements Understanding why earthquakes take place and what effects they had in Haiti and Japan	Climate across the world [Sum 1] Understanding climate zones, biomes, and vegetation belts, and the effects of global warming on vulnerable biomes.	I am a geographer Posing questions, completing fieldwork and presenting a geographical investigation

Most of the case studies used come from the UK, Europe, North or South America, as per the requirements of the National Curriculum. However, teachers may choose to change the highlighted case studies to reflect the interests or backgrounds of your pupils.



Geography in Our Local Context



Geography is taught in 6-lesson units, once a term (Geography alternates with History).

The United Curriculum is sequenced so that meaningful links are made between subjects, and the order of units allows these connections to be made. For example, pupils are taught about the Vikings in Britain in History in Spring 2, so that they can review and build upon knowledge of migration – and consider the push and pull factors behind Viking migration – after they have been taught about migration in Geography in Spring 1.

The United Curriculum for Geography has been adapted for Hlland Church of England Primary School by bringing in the geography of our local area and considering the context of our pupils and the community.



Progression in Geography



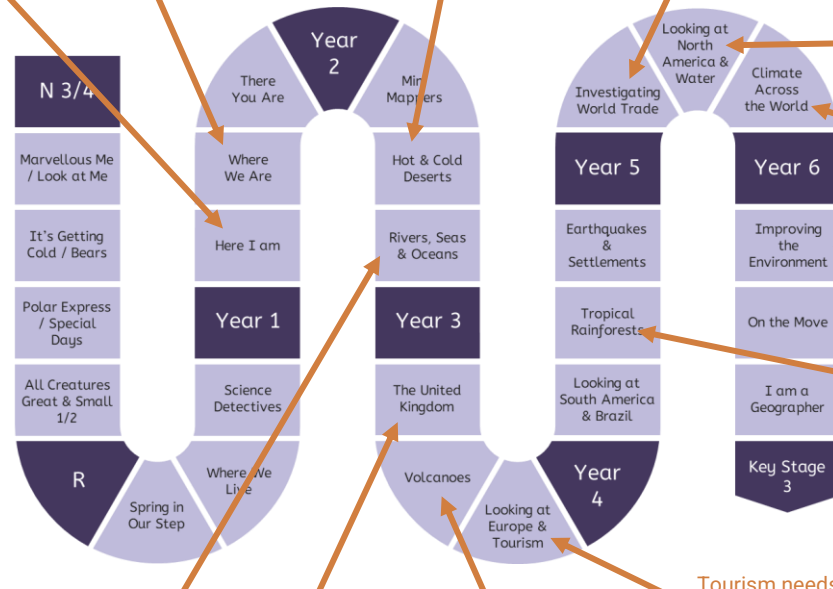
Vertical Concepts
Human Processes
Physical Processes
Space & Place
Procedural Knowledge
Disciplinary Knowledge
Enquiry & Fieldwork
Comparisons
Interconnections
Forming Judgements
Decision Making

Human features are man-made. They include settlements, shops, houses and offices.

Rural means countryside, urban means towns and cities.

Human use of land depends on physical features. For example, deserts, where there is little precipitation, settlements are small.

There have been changes in what is grown where, how it is farmed, how it is transported and how it is sold. Agriculture has moved from subsistence to commercial so that food can be traded.



Land use around a river changes from the upper course to the lower course, because of how flat the land is and the features around it.

Human use of fossil fuels and other resources (renewable and non-renewable).

Adaptation to and mitigation against climate change.

Human uses of products of the tropical rainforest include wood, food and medicine.

Deforestation of the Amazon rainforest at the national level is making way for agriculture, mining and logging.

Land use is how land is used by humans.

Overfishing is damaging biodiversity in the oceans.

Harbours are found (and ports can be found) where the land meets the sea.

National Parks are a human feature.

Humans make most of land around volcanoes with agriculture.

Tourism needs to be managed sustainably, as it can have negative as well as positive impacts on an area.

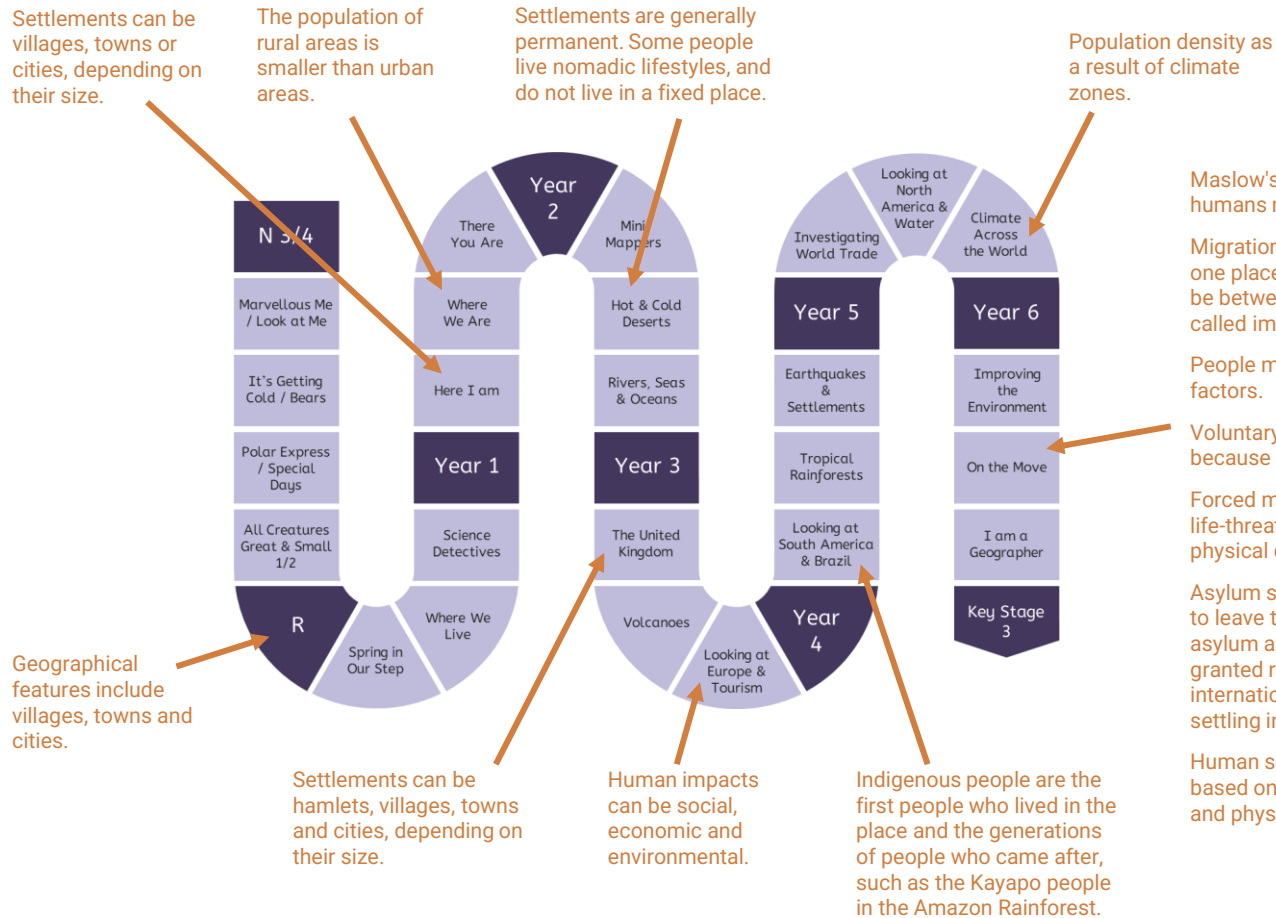
Human impacts can be social, economic and environmental.

Use of Resources

Progression in Geography



Vertical Concepts
Human Processes
Physical Processes
Space & Place
Procedural Knowledge
Disciplinary Knowledge
Enquiry & Fieldwork
Comparisons
Interconnections
Forming Judgements
Decision Making



Population & Communities

Progression in Geography



Vertical Concepts
Human Processes
Physical Processes
Space & Place
Procedural Knowledge
Disciplinary Knowledge
Enquiry & Fieldwork
Comparisons
Interconnections
Forming Judgements
Decision Making

Rural areas include farmland. This can be for either pastoral or arable farming.

There are poorer and wealthier areas in every city.

Countries in the world can be classified as low-, medium-, or high-income countries (LIC, MIC, HICs). They appear in all continents.

People can be employed in different industries and sectors including primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary.

HICs, MICs and LICs tend to have primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary industries at different levels.

Trade is the process of buying and selling goods. Imports are goods that are brought into the country. Exports are goods that are traded out of the country.

Fair trade is a way of making sure that farmers are paid a fair price for the food they grow.

Economic aspects of climate change mitigation and adaptations.

Agriculture is the word used to describe the practice of farming.

Land use can be for economic uses, including agriculture, factories and leisure.

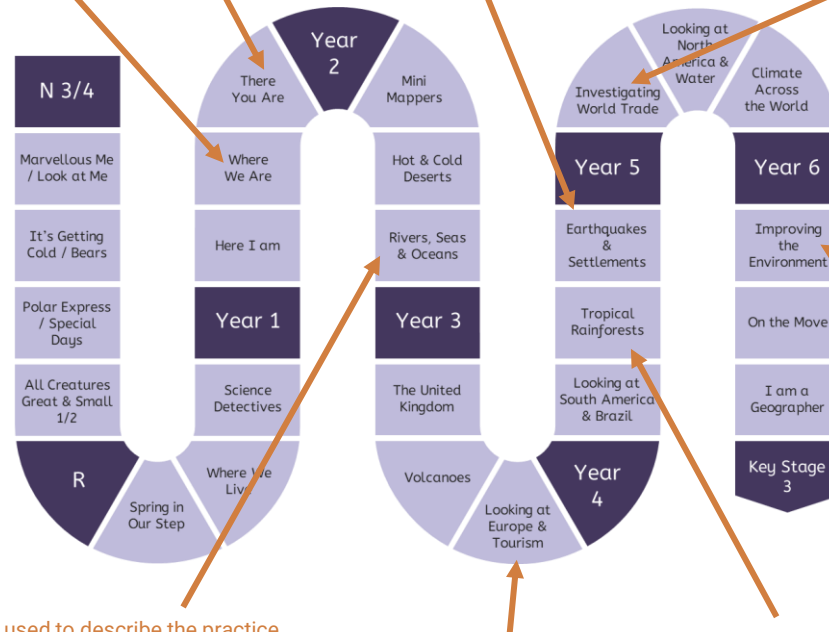
Ports are places where goods to be traded are unloaded and loaded.

Humans use seas and oceans for economic and leisure uses. The main economic use is trade.

Tourism is the business of supporting and encouraging people to visit a place for fun.

Human impacts can be social, economic and environmental.

Rio de Janeiro is one of the largest cities Brazil. Some of its population live in favelas (makeshift settlements), but there are also wealthy areas that are popular with tourists.



Economy & Development

Progression in Geography



Vertical Concepts
Human Processes
Physical Processes
Space & Place
Procedural Knowledge
Disciplinary Knowledge
Enquiry & Fieldwork
Comparisons
Interconnections
Forming Judgements
Decision Making

We live on the **Earth**.

Physical features occur in nature and include river, forest, **soil**, and hill.

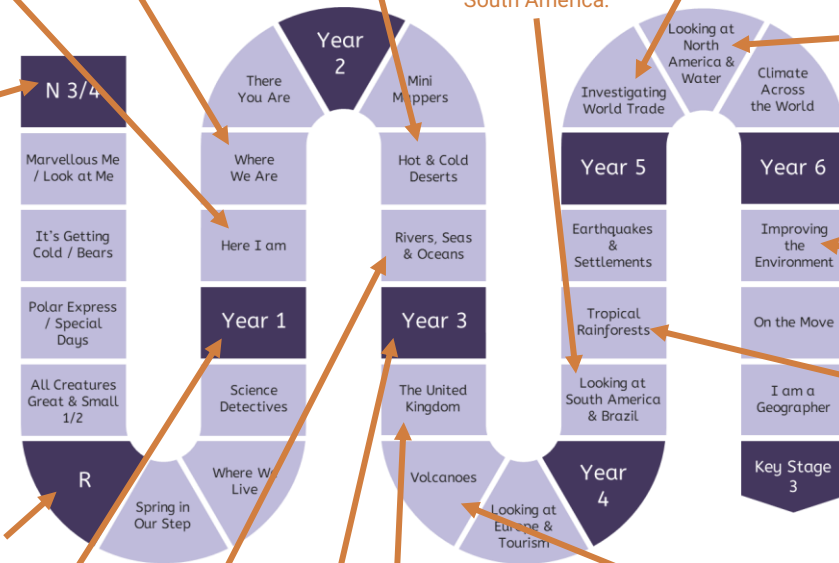
Coastal areas are areas of land that are near the sea. Features in coastal areas include beach, **cliff**, sea and **ocean**.

Features of **hot deserts** include rocks, **sand dunes** and **oases**. Features of **cold deserts** include **mountains** and **ice sheets**.

Examples of natural resources include wood, food, water and **fossil fuels**. Fossil fuels are materials made from fossils over millions of years, like coal and oil. Humans use these to run cars and electrical items.

Natural resources are unevenly distributed across the world and can be **renewable** or **non-renewable** (finite).

Describing the natural things in our local area.



Geographical features include **beach**, **hill**, **forest**, **river** and **sea**.

Science: Some plants grow in **soil**.

Rivers, **lakes**, seas and oceans are all bodies of water.

Rivers travel from **highland** areas (the **source**) to **lowland** areas (the **mouth**).

Physical features around rivers include **valleys**, mountains, hills and **vegetation**.

Science: Much of the solid surface of the Earth is covered in **soil**, which is a mixture of pieces of rock of various sizes and the remains of organisms. Some soil also contains air, water and nutrients. There are three main kinds of rock, **igneous**, **sedimentary** and **metamorphic**, with different composition and properties.

There are several **mountain ranges** in the UK.

The Earth has four layers. Its upper layer of **tectonic plates** move.

Shield and **composite volcanoes** can form at plate boundaries, which produce lava, pyroclastic flows, ash clouds and lahars.

Soil is rich with nutrients around volcanoes.

The **upper course** of a river is in high, mountainous ground and the river is narrow and fast-flowing; the **lower course** of a river is in low, flat ground and the river is wide and slow-flowing; the **middle course** is between the two.

Rivers **erode**, **transport** and **deposit** to form **waterfalls**, **meanders** and **floodplains**.

Use of fossil fuels to create plastics, and the effects this can have on the Earth.

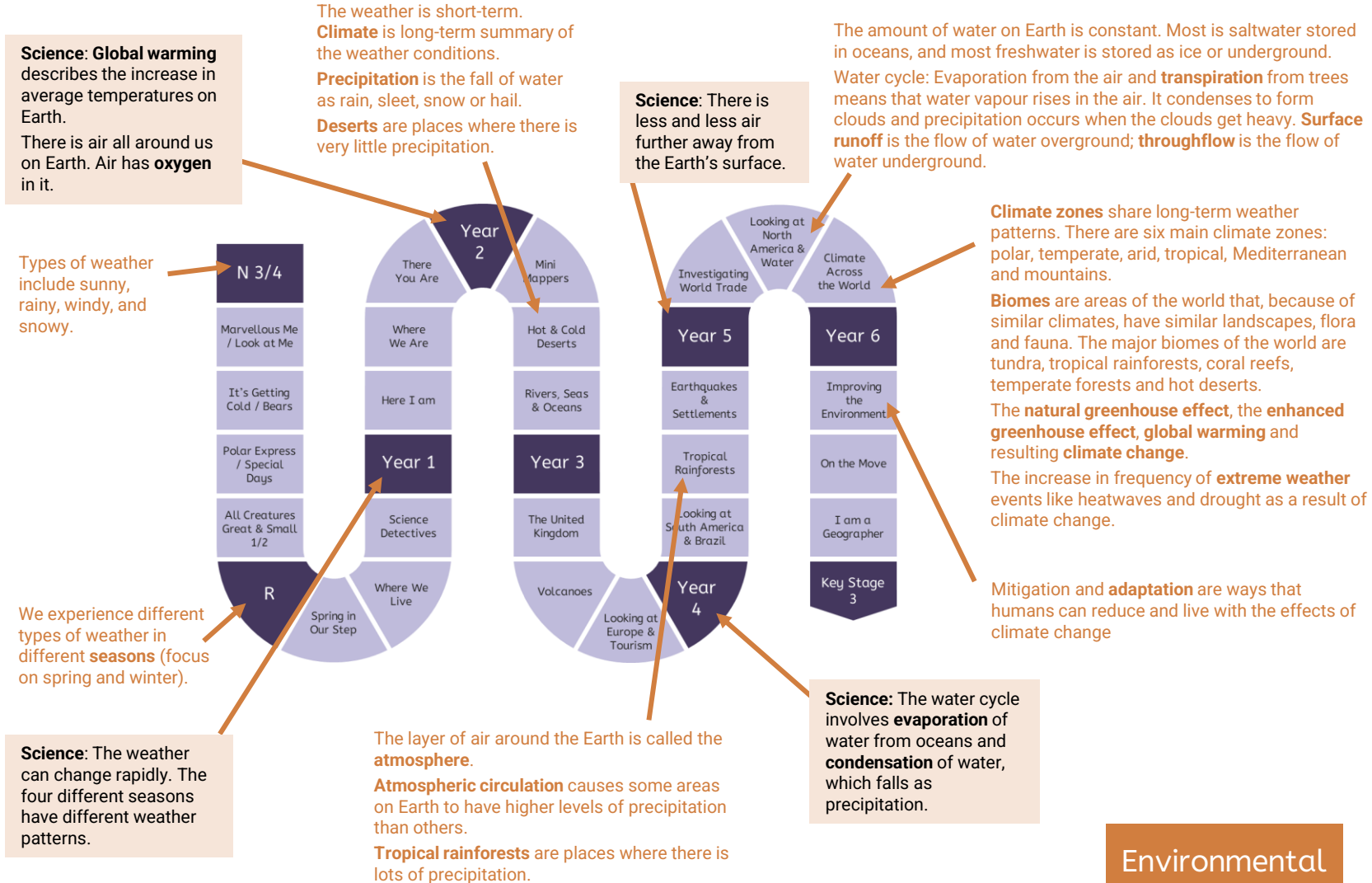
Physical regions are identified by climate, land height and other physical features.

Geology & Earth Science

Progression in Geography



- Vertical Concepts
- Human Processes
- Physical Processes
- Space & Place
- Procedural Knowledge
- Disciplinary Knowledge
- Enquiry & Fieldwork
- Comparisons
- Interconnections
- Forming Judgements
- Decision Making



Environmental Science

Progression in Geography



Vertical Concepts
Human Processes
Physical Processes
Space & Place
Procedural Knowledge
Disciplinary Knowledge
Enquiry & Fieldwork
Comparisons
Interconnections
Forming Judgements
Decision Making

The UK is made of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The capital cities of the four countries in the UK are London (England), Edinburgh (Scotland), Cardiff (Wales) and Belfast (Northern Ireland).

Talk about where I live (e.g. flat/house number, name of street)

Location of UK.

Location of the North Pole and South Pole.

Location of Africa.

Case study: Local area.

Location of Kenya.

Hot deserts are usually near the Equator; cold deserts are usually near the North Pole or South Pole.

Case study: Sahara Desert; Antarctic Desert

There are five oceans in the world.

The seas that surround the UK are the North Sea, the Irish Sea and the English Channel. The seas around the UK flow into the Atlantic Ocean.

There are seven continents in the world, six of which people live on. There are countries within each continent (except Antarctica).

Case study: Kenya

The UK is made of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and N Ireland; Great Britain is made up of England, Scotland and Wales; British Isles is made up of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and Ireland.

England and the UK are split into regions. Regions in England and the UK are split into counties.

There are several mountain ranges in the UK, including Grampian Mountains (Scotland), Pennines (England) and Cambrian Mountains (Wales).

The three longest rivers in the UK are the Severn, Thames and Trent.

Location is a point on a map.

Place is the emotional attachment to a location, developed through character and identity.

Case study: Amazon Rainforest

Case study: Côte d'Ivoire

North America is located to the west of Europe and is the third largest continent. North America is made up of 23 countries in the Caribbean, Central America, and Northern America.

Location of Missouri, Mississippi, Yukon, Rio Grande, Churchill, Mackenzie and Colorado rivers.

Locating climate zones and biomes.

Case study: Haiti; Japan

Case study: Shetland

Case study: Poland to UK 2004-today; Mexico to USA; Syria to countries in Europe

South America is made up of 12 countries.

Case study: Rio de Janeiro

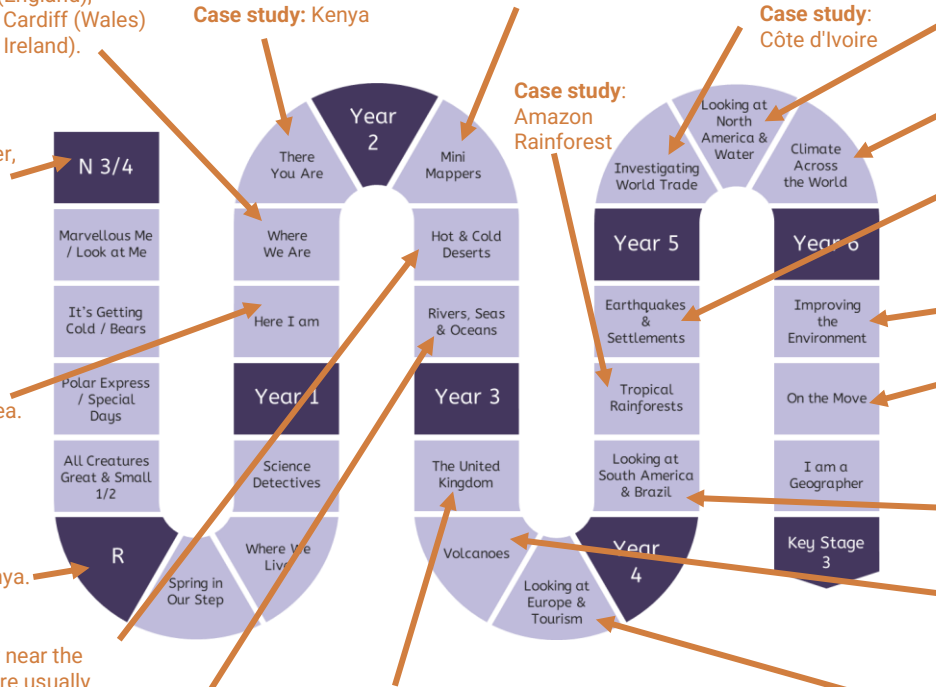
The Pacific Ring of Fire is an imaginary line where lots of volcanoes exist.

Case study: La Soufriere; Etna

Europe is made up of 50 countries; Russia is split across Asia and Europe.

There are similarities and differences between different places, even if they have similar physical and/or human features.

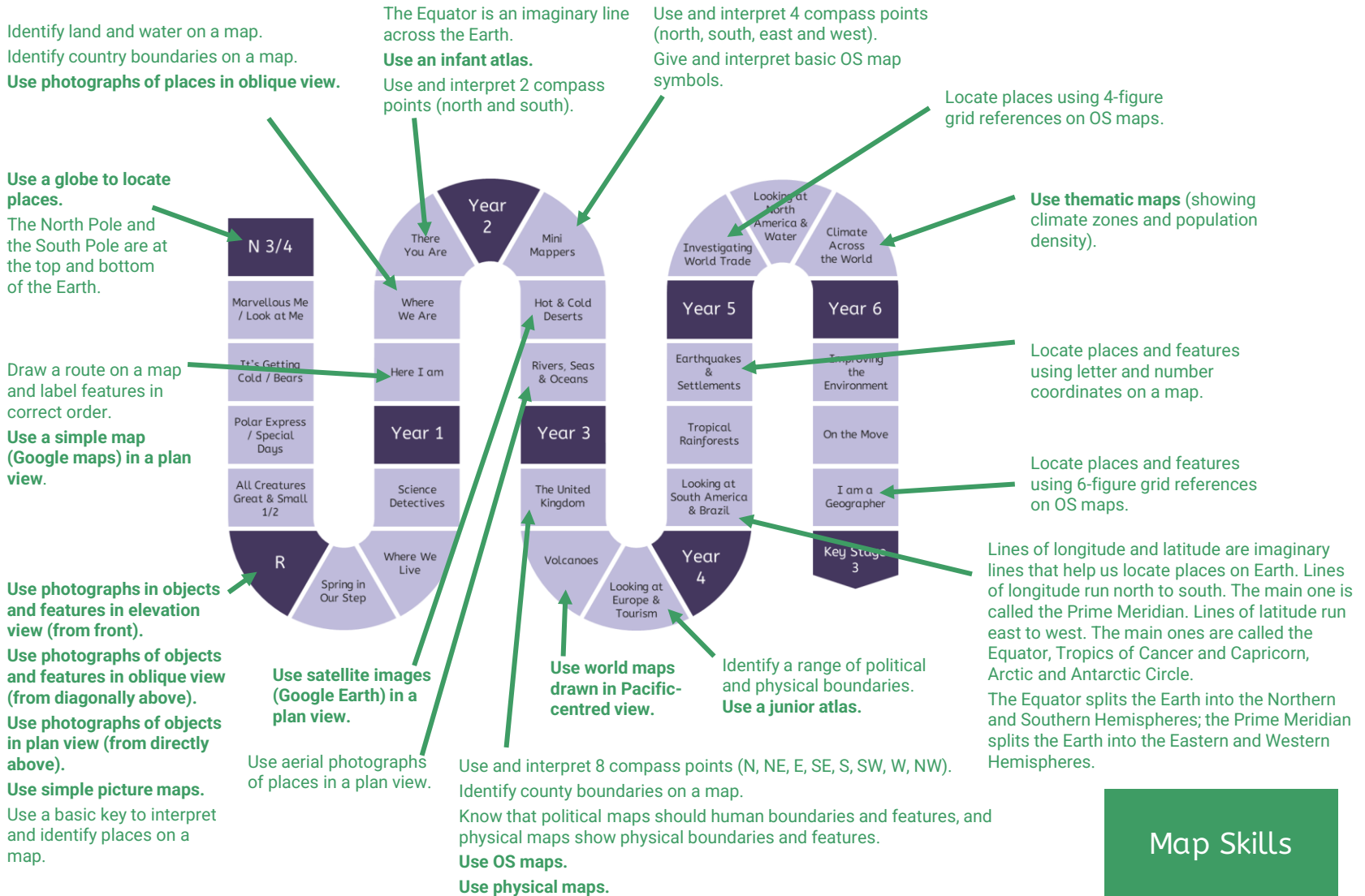
Case study: Amalfi Coast; Graian Region



Progression in Geography



Vertical Concepts
Human Processes
Physical Processes
Space & Place
Procedural Knowledge
Disciplinary Knowledge
Enquiry & Fieldwork
Comparisons
Interconnections
Forming Judgements
Decision Making



Progression in Geography



Vertical Concepts
Human Processes
Physical Processes
Space & Place
Procedural Knowledge
Disciplinary Knowledge
Enquiry & Fieldwork
Comparisons
Interconnections
Forming Judgements
Decision Making

Recognise that our home, our school and our community are at the local scale.
Interpret and give locations and directions using language of left, right, near and far.

Recognise that our home, our school and our community are at the local scale, UK and countries are at the national scale.

Recognise that our home, our school and our community are at the local scale; UK and countries are at the national scale; and continents are at the global scale.

Draw routes between locations on playground on squared paper using scale 1 square : 1 pace (or 1 metre, if pupils have learned this in maths by this stage in Y2).
Draw a sketch map of a route with some approximate scale and features in correct order.
Know that scale is used to show size proportionally.

Calculate distances on a map using scale (1 unit : 1, 2, 4, 5 or 10 units).

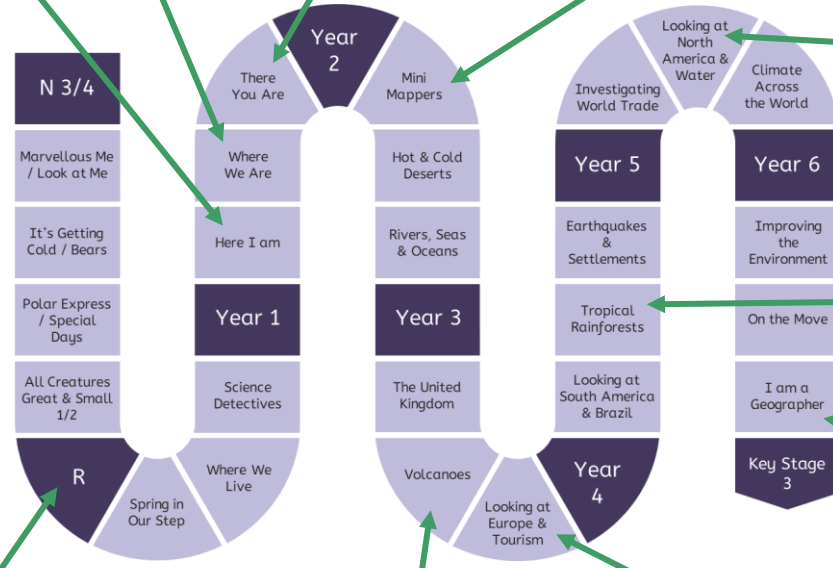
Draw an object (trees in the tropical rainforest) to scale.

Draw a basic map to scale (1 unit : 1, 2, 4, 5 or 10 units).

Say whether a map is at the local, national or global scale.
Spatially match locations on maps of different scales.

Use prepositions (e.g. bigger/smaller; nearer/further) to describe and interpret locations.
Use directional language (not left and right) to describe and interpret directions.
Recognise that drawings are not the same size of features in real life.
Draw round objects to make a plan view of them, and identify objects from a plan photograph/drawing of them.

Recognise that world maps can be drawn from different perspectives, and different perspectives are useful for different tasks.

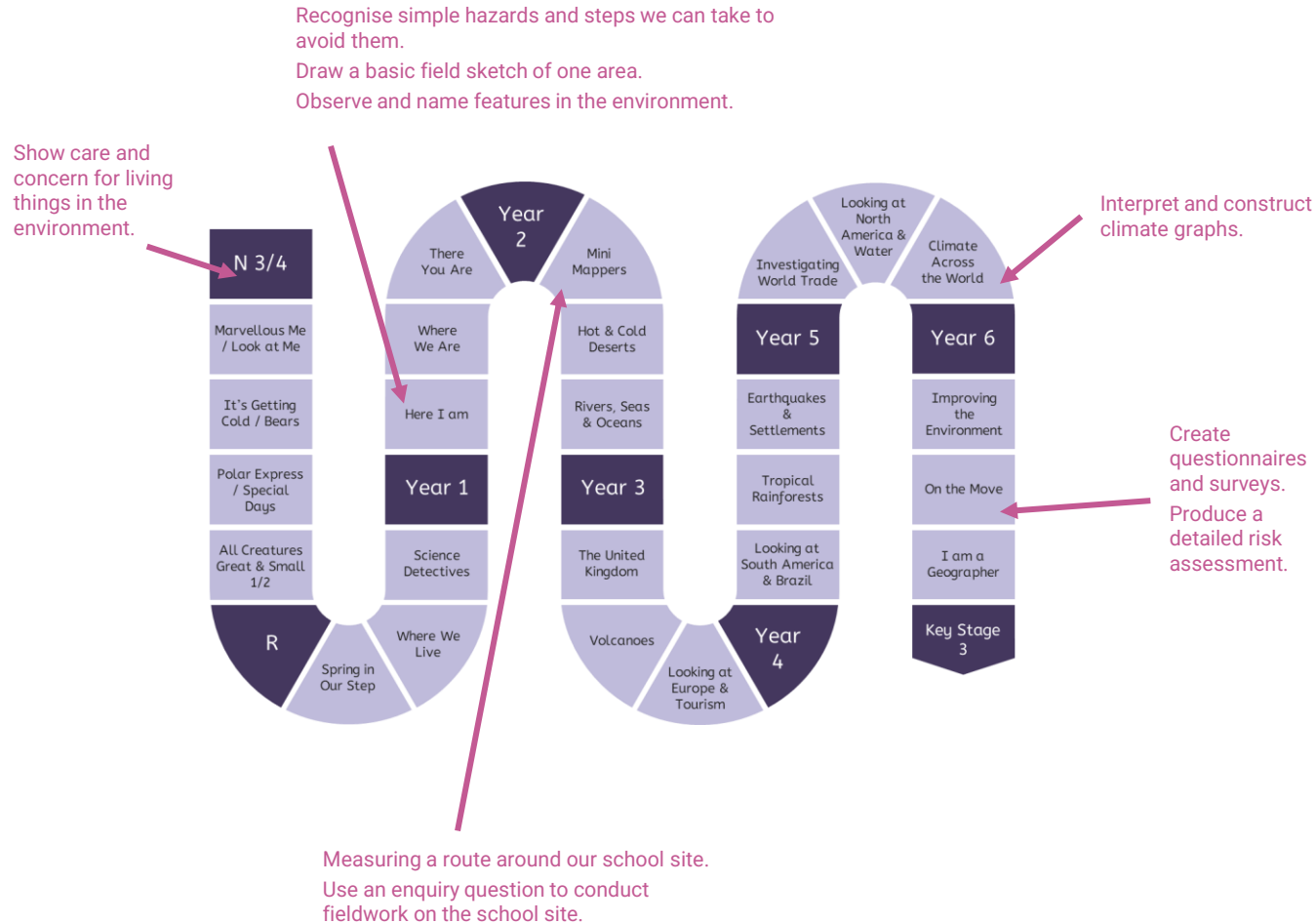


Scale & Perspective

Progression in Geography



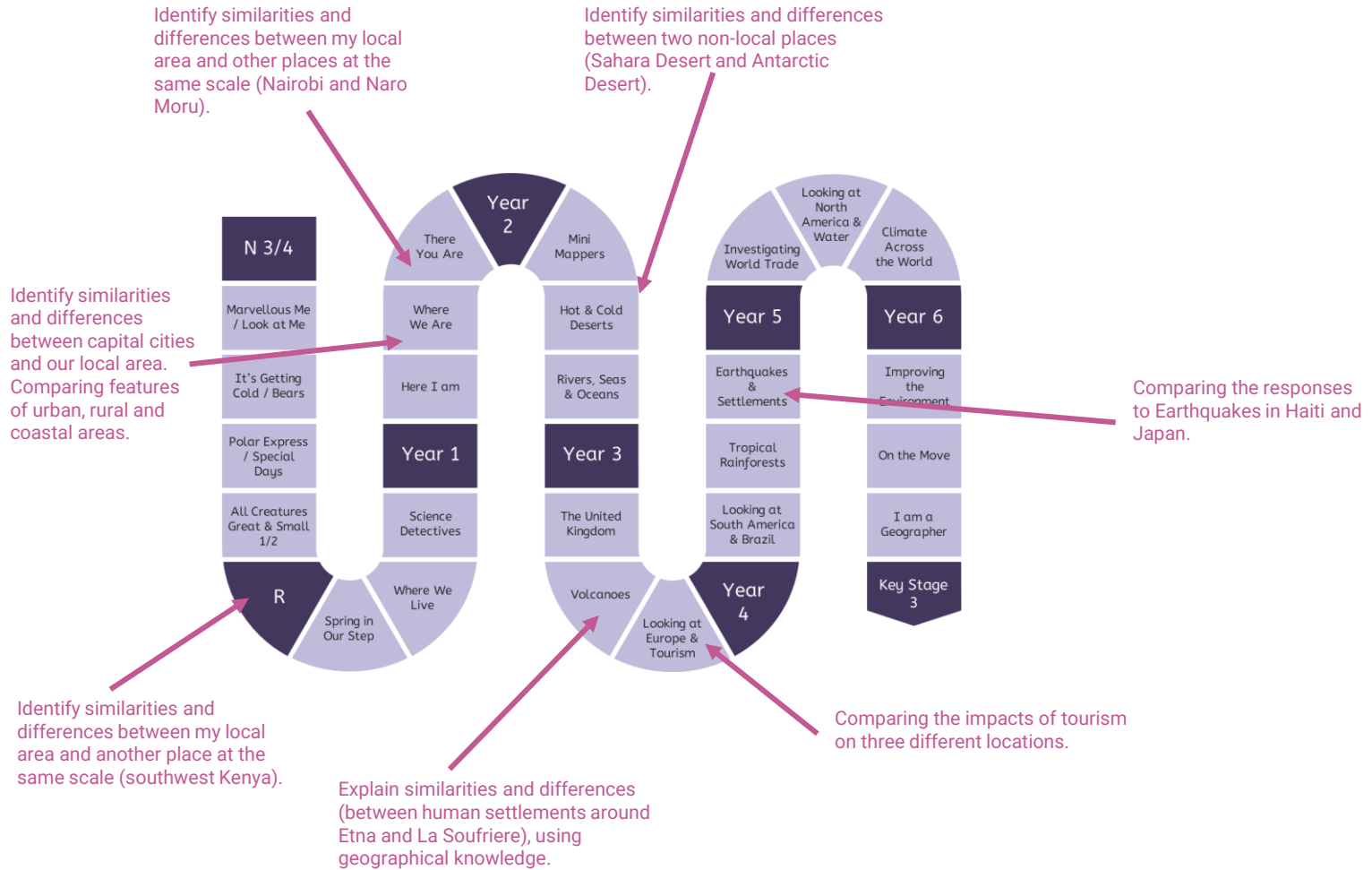
Vertical Concepts
Human Processes
Physical Processes
Space & Place
Procedural Knowledge
Disciplinary Knowledge
Enquiry & Fieldwork
Comparisons
Interconnections
Forming Judgements



Progression in Geography



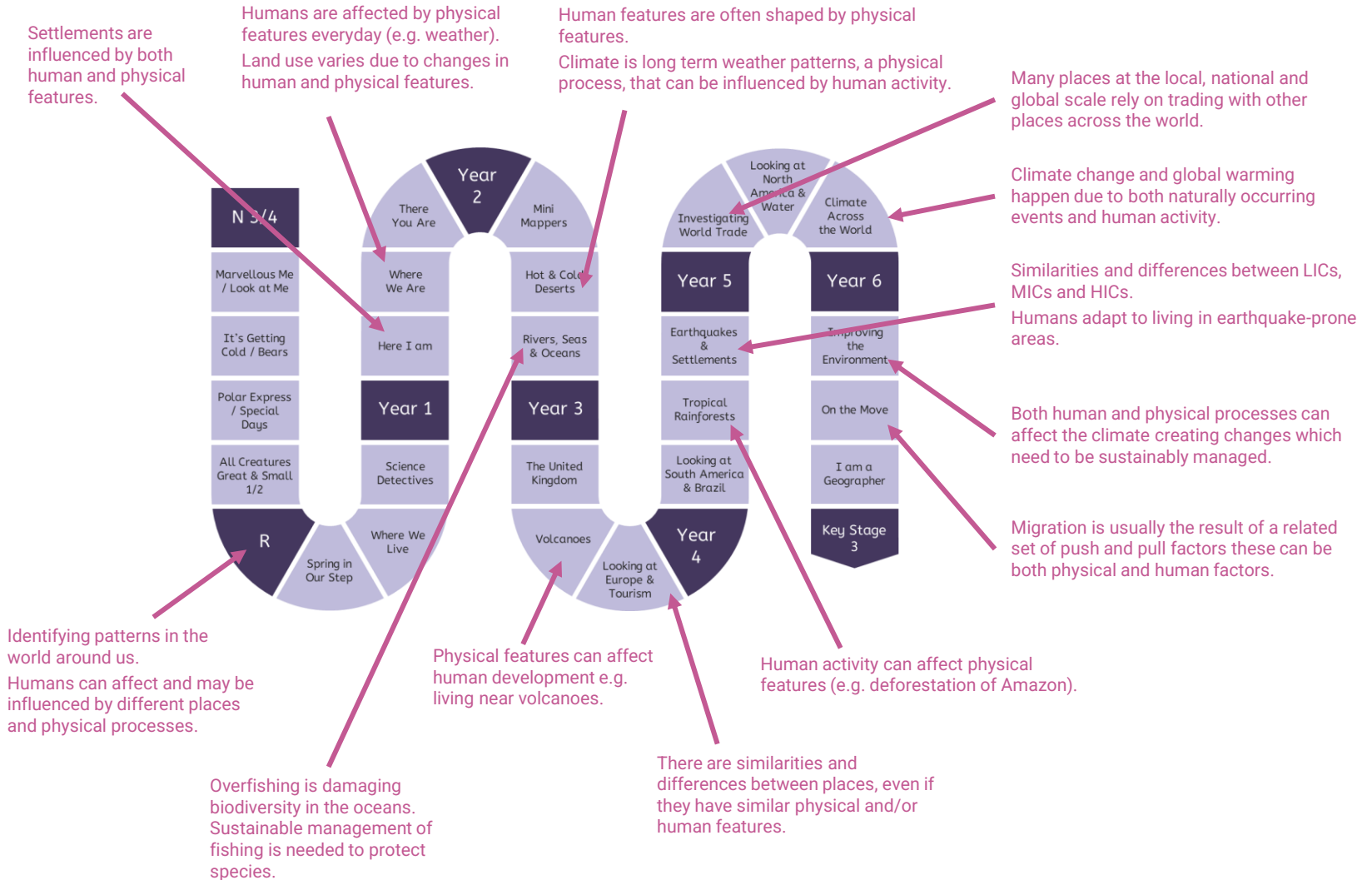
- Vertical Concepts
- Human Processes
- Physical Processes
- Space & Place
- Procedural Knowledge
- Disciplinary Knowledge
- Enquiry & Fieldwork
- Comparisons
- Interconnections
- Forming Judgements



Progression in Geography



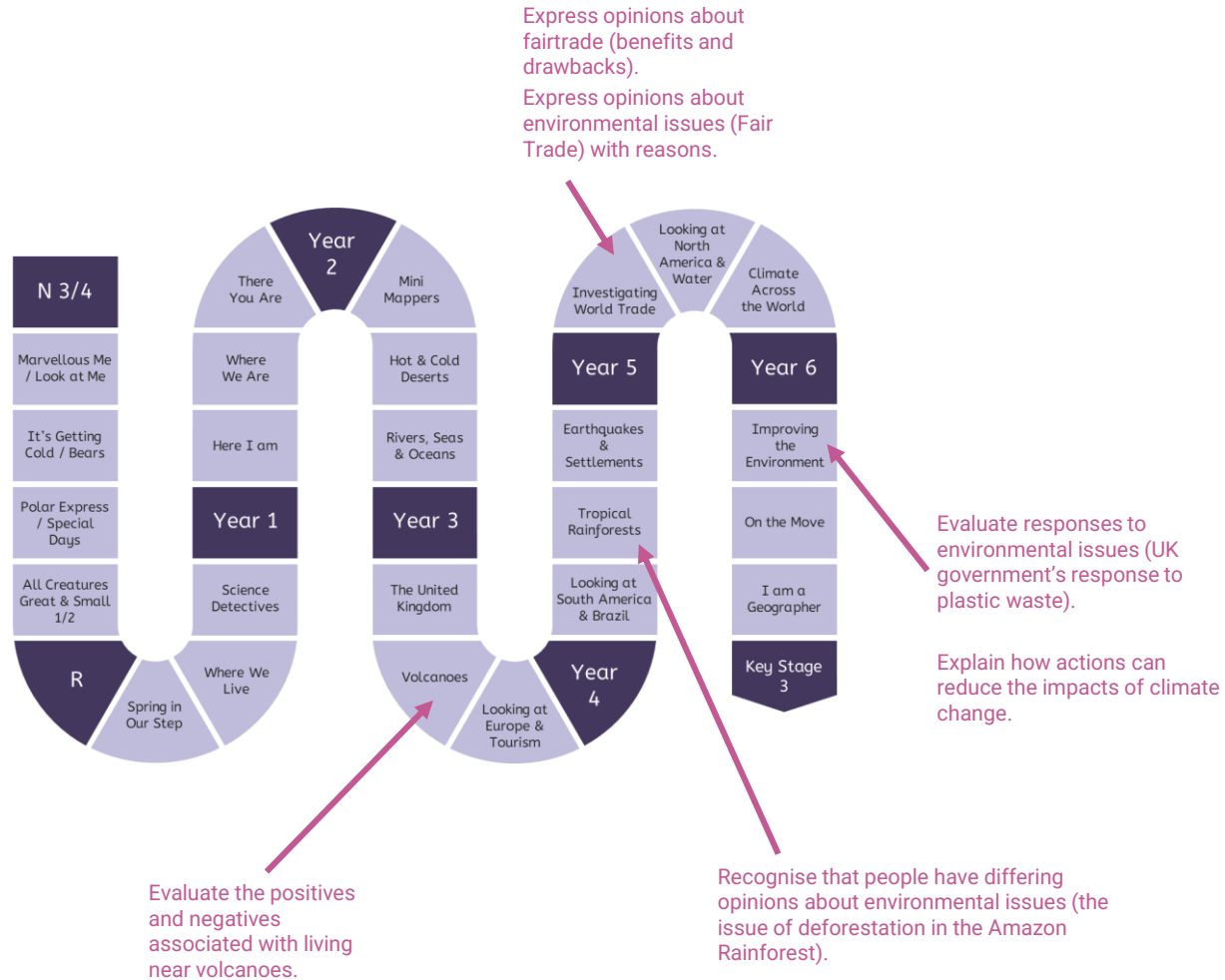
Vertical Concepts
Human Processes
Physical Processes
Space & Place
Procedural Knowledge
Disciplinary Knowledge
Enquiry & Fieldwork
Comparisons
Interconnections
Forming Judgements



Progression in Geography



- Vertical Concepts
- Human Processes
- Physical Processes
- Space & Place
- Procedural Knowledge
- Disciplinary Knowledge
- Enquiry & Fieldwork
- Comparisons
- Interconnections
- Forming Judgements



Alignment to the National Curriculum (KS1)



The below tables outlines where the statutory content from the National Curriculum is first taught across KS1 or KS2. The curriculum has been sequenced so that much of the content is reviewed in subsequent units.

Locational knowledge

Name and locate the world's seven continents and five oceans	Y1 Sum: There you are
Name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas	Y1 Spr: Where we are

Place knowledge

Understand geographical similarities and differences through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country	Y1 Sum: There You Are
---	------------------------------

Human and physical geography

Identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the United Kingdom	Y1 Aut2 Science: Seasonal changes
Identify the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles	Y2 Spr: Hot and cold deserts
Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to: • Key physical features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather • Key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and port	Y1 Aut: Here I am Y1 Spr: Where we are Y2 Sum: Rivers, seas and oceans

Geographical skills and fieldwork

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	Y1 Sum: There you are Y2 Sum: Rivers, seas and oceans
Use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West)	Y2 Aut: Minimappers
Use locational and directional language (for example, near and far; left and right), to describe the location of features and routes on a map	Y1 Aut: Here I am
Use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features	Y2 Sum: Rivers, seas and oceans
Devise a simple map; use and construct basic symbols in a key	Y2 Aut: Minimappers
Use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment	Y1 Aut: Here I am Y2 Aut: Minimappers



Alignment to the National Curriculum (KS2)



Locational knowledge

Locate the world's countries, using maps to concentrate on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities:

- Europe
- North America
- South America

Y3 Sum: Looking at Europe and tourism
Y5 Aut: Investigating world trade
Y4 Aut: Looking at South America and Brazil

Name and locate countries and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time

Y3 Aut: UK
Y5 Spr: Looking at North America and water

Identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime Meridian

Y4 Aut: Looking at South America and Brazil

Place knowledge

Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America

Y5 Spr: Looking at North America and water

Human and physical geography

Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography including:

- Climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts
- Rivers
- Volcanoes
- Mountains
- Earthquakes
- The water cycle

Y5 Sum: Climate across the world
Y5 Spr: Looking at North America and water
Y3 Spr: Volcanoes
Y3 Aut: UK
Y4 Sum: Earthquakes
Y5 Spr: Looking at North America and water

Describe and understand key aspects of human geography including:

- Types of settlement and land use
- Economic activity including trade links
- Distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water

Y3 Aut: UK
Y5 Aut: Investigating world trade
Y5 Sum: Investigating world trade;
Y5 Spr: Looking at North America and water

Geographical skills and fieldwork

Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied

[See the last column in Disciplinary Knowledge to see when each map type is introduced]

Use the eight compass points

Y3 Aut: UK

Four-figure grid references

Y5 Aut: Investigating world trade

Six-figure grid-references

Y6 Sum: I am a geographer

Symbols and key (including OS maps)

Y3 Aut: UK

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

Y2 Aut: Minimappers;
Y6 Sum: I am a geographer





The implementation of the United Curriculum for Geography reflects our broader teaching and learning principles, found [here](#):

For Geography in particular:

- Content is always carefully situated within existing schemas. **For example, map skills cannot be covered in a single task, concepts of map skills are built on methodically and logically over time through careful planning. In early years pupils begin to identify features of their local area, in KS1 pupils apply directional vocabulary to features and by KS2 pupils use map symbols and grid references on OS maps to describe the location of features.**
- Vertical concepts are used within lessons to connect aspects of learning. **For example, when learning about migration, pupils will review population structures, natural hazards and types of settlement when looking at the reasons why people voluntarily or forcibly move from one place to another.**
- Opportunities for extended, scholarly writing appear throughout the curriculum. These have a clear purpose and audience and, crucially, allow pupils to write as a geographer. **For example, after considering the hazards and benefits associated with volcanic activity and the ways in which humans can prepare for volcanic events, pupils write a discussion explaining why they would or would not live near a volcano.**





The careful sequencing of the curriculum – and how concepts are gradually built over time – is the progression model. If pupils are keeping up with the curriculum, they are making progress. Formative assessment is prioritised and is focused on whether pupils are keeping up with the curriculum.

In general, this is done through:

- Questioning in lessons. Teachers check understanding so they can fill gaps and address misconceptions as required.
- Pupil conferencing with books. Subject leads and SLT talk to pupils about what they have learnt – both substantive and disciplinary knowledge – and how this connects to the vertical concepts that they have been developing in previous years and other subjects. **For example, pupils in year 4 may be asked to talk about the tropical rainforest biome is similar and different to hot and cold deserts, and how these biomes are affected by human activity such as deforestation or migration.**
- Post-learning quizzes at the end of each unit. These give teachers an understanding of the knowledge that pupils can recall at the end of the unit, and can be used to identify any remaining gaps to be filled. **These are generally simple recall questions. Such as key places or features, using map skills, identifying the causes of flooding or the effects of an earthquake.**
- Pre-learning quizzes at the start of each unit. These assess pupils' understanding of the prior knowledge that is required to access the new content in the unit. These are used to identify gaps to be filled prior to teaching the new unit. **For example, in a unit about improving the environment in Year 6, pupils need to recall knowledge about the effects of climate change and non-renewable energy use and apply this to new knowledge about renewable energy and mitigating the impacts of climate change. This knowledge is assessed in the Pre-Learning Quiz, and teachers can plan to fill any identified gaps.**

