



Year 5 – Summer 2

Land of the Free

Geography

As Geographers we will explore the physical and human geography across the Americas. We will explore the different biomes and understand how this can affect the human activity in these areas. We will build upon our understanding of rivers from Year 4. We will look at population density in the Americas and compare this to Europe. We will also explore the differences in land use and tourism across the Americas, before combining our knowledge to plan a holiday.

Resources and equipment required:

- iPads/Chromebooks/laptops to access Digimaps and Google maps.
- Compasses
- Atlases with information about Europe
- World maps
- Globes
- Maps of Europe
- Maps of North and South America

Vocabulary

Physical/human characteristics
Equator
Tropic of Capricorn/Cancer
Latitude
Longitude
Prime Meridian
Northern/Southern/Eastern/Western Hemisphere
Large scale map
Small scale map

Episode 2 – Physical Geography

By the end of this episode, children will:

- Name the major biomes of the world (see below) and be able to identify key characteristics of each. Identify each of these biomes on a map of the Americas.
- Know the significant rivers across the Americas and be able to identify river features on each. Compare and contrast one of these rivers with a European one.
- Know about how ocean currents work and how these help to regulate the Earth's climate. Know the impact of melting ice caps on the ocean currents.
- Know that the Earth's crust is split into tectonic plates and that these move a small amount each year.
- Know that the Earth used to be connected as part of the supercontinent, Pangea.
- Know the role that tectonic plates play in creating mountain ranges and that, as such, we often find mountain ranges along tectonic plate boundaries.
- Explain the different processes of creating the different types of mountain (see below).
- Compare the physical features of the Americas to an area in Europe and the UK.

Procedural skill:

Name and locate some of the countries and cities of the world and their identifying human and physical characteristics, including hills, mountains, rivers, key topographical features and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.

Name and locate the countries of North America and identify their main physical and human characteristics.

Identify and describe the geographical significance of latitude, longitude, equator, northern hemisphere, southern hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, and time zones (including day and night).

Understand some of the reasons for geographical similarities and differences between countries.

Describe how locations around the world are changing and explain some of the reasons for change.

Describe geographical diversity across the world.

Describe and understand key aspects of: physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes and the water cycle.

NC links:

Pupils should be taught to:

Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities.

Describe and understand key aspects of: physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle.

NC links:

Pupils should be taught to:

Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities.

Describe and understand key aspects of: physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle.

Physical Geography of America

Know that biomes are areas of the planet with similar climates, landscapes, animals and plants.

Explore the biomes across the world and be familiar with the features of each: rainforests, deserts, savannah, woodlands, grasslands, tundra, taiga.

Find correlations between the biomes and their location in the world (e.g. the coldest biomes are further away from the equator).

Create a map to show the biomes across the Americas. Determine which biomes cover the most and least amount of land across the Americas. Identify some countries within each of these biomes and compare and contrast them to one another.

Identify reasons why the Americas contain such a vast range of biomes. Consider how this may be beneficial in terms of diversity in agriculture.

Oceans & Rivers

Locate and label the most significant rivers of the Americas on a map. Use string and a scale bar to determine the length of these rivers. Mississippi River (longest in North America), Colorado River (formed the Grand Canyon in Arizona and has significant dams), the Amazon River, the Orinoco River.

Identify the source, waterfall, tributary, meander, confluence, delta and mouth (where applicable) as well as the upper, middle and lower course for some of these rivers. When tracking the routes of each river, identify countries that they pass through/near and which biome(s) they are in.

Describe a "river basin" and then explore the examples of the Amazon, Mississippi and Congo River basins.

Compare the river basins in the USA to those in European rivers (One in the UK or Volga)

Compare and contrast the geographical locations of two rivers in North America (e.g. the Yukon and Mississippi OR Colorado and Danube)

Know that an ocean current is a continuous movement of ocean water from one place to another.

Know that ocean currents can be found on the water surface and deeper down. Know that surface currents depend on the wind. These travel clockwise in the northern hemisphere and anticlockwise in the southern hemisphere. This type of ocean current can be found up to 400m below the surface of the ocean.

Know that the direction and speed of deeper currents depend on water pressure, temperature and salt content.

Know that ocean currents transport warm water and precipitation from the equator towards the poles, and then cold water from the poles back to the tropics. Know that this helps to regulate the climate as, without currents, the temperatures would be much more extreme and more of Earth's land would be inhabitable.

Describe the impact of melting polar ice caps on the ocean currents, as well as on sea levels.

Describe plastic pollution and explore the impact on the ocean and its sea life (Great Pacific Garbage Patch).

Episode 3 – Human Geography

By the end of this episode, children will:

- Use population maps and a knowledge of physical features to know about the population across the Americas compared to Europe.
- Know the different types of land use across the Americas and compare this to the UK.
- Identify some of the key tourist attractions of the Americas and use this knowledge along with knowledge from the rest of the topic to plan a holiday to the Americas.

Procedural skill:

Identify and describe how the physical features affect the human activity within a location.

Create maps of locations identifying patterns (such as: land use, climate zones, population densities, height of land).

Describe and understand key aspects of: human geography, including: settlements, land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals, and water supplies.

Name and locate the countries of North and South America and identify their main physical and human characteristics.

Name and locate some of the countries and cities of the world and their identifying human and physical characteristics, including hills, mountains, rivers, key topographical features and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.

Describe and understand key aspects of: human geography, including: settlements, land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals, and water supplies.

NC links:

Pupils should be taught to:

Describe and understand key aspects of: human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Name and locate counties 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.

Population

Create a population density map to identify the most and least populous areas of North America. Identify whether there are any trends

NC links:

Pupils should be taught to:

Describe and understand key aspects of: human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Name and locate counties 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.

Land Use & Settlements

Identify rural and urban areas across the Americas on a map. Compare these to those within the UK.

in where the most populous areas are. Link this to biomes and the physical features to see how these affect human activity.

Look at the size of Europe compared to North America and see how this correlates with population. (North America is almost triple the size of Europe, however Europe is more populous [accurate at the time of writing this – may need to check before teaching]). Ask children to use their knowledge of the physical features to discuss why. (i.e. they may consider the uninhabitable tundra and how much land this takes up).

Consider the population of South America compared to North America. Use knowledge of physical features to determine why this may differ.

Look at land use across the Americas. Is this dependent on the biome the area falls into? How might this differ dependent on location? Create a map representing land use across the Americas.

Investigate the most common land use of North America and compare this to South America, and then to Europe. How does this differ? What possible reasons are there for this?

Identify examples of hamlets, villages, towns and cities in the Americas. Compare and contrast those within North and South America, and then compare and contrast these to the UK.