



## Subject Story

### Geography

Geography inspires children to become curious and fascinated about their world. It deepens a child's understanding and develops their skills to investigate human and physical processes. Children's knowledge of our diverse world (places, people, resources and natural and human environments) develops through comparisons of their local community with the wider world. We aim to stimulate the children's enthusiasm and curiosity about their surroundings and the wider world, through our teaching of Geography.

As part of our topic overview, aim to develop the children's knowledge of globally significant places and to teach a variety of skills including map reading. This ranges from helping reception children to talk about the features of his/her immediate environment, right up to how they may use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computing mapping to locate countries and describe features studied in Year Six.

#### **National Curriculum for Geography states:**

*A high-quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will remain with them for the rest of their lives. Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.*

#### **If you were to walk into Geography lessons at Morden, you would see:**

- **Reference back to the unit title page** – at the start of each lesson, focussing attention on the skills to be developed in the proceeding learning activities.
- **Retrieval practice** – giving learners the chance to consolidate previous skills and knowledge.
- **A wide range of physical resources** – including atlases, globes, and relevant non-fiction texts will help the children take ownership of their learning and develop their understanding of the subject.
- **The use of key vocabulary throughout the school and children taking ownership of their learning** – teaching staff ensure key vocabulary is displayed throughout their interactive whiteboard slides as well as in displays and word banks so that the children are able to access them frequently. Children also have the opportunity to explain their key findings through a final topic lesson that allows them to express their ideas creatively using all learning from that topic.
- **Relevant trips to extend and engage children within their learning** – children experience either trips to encourage their learning and enable them to take part in a variety of different activities or a visitor to school to show them a range of resources and opportunities to further their learning of a topic.
- **Inclusivity** – learning that is accessible for all.

#### **Pupil Voice**

Year 1: 'I like learning about maps and making an aerial map of the school.'

Year 2: 'I was excited to learn about the continents and countries, and to complete worksheet with keys to find continents.'

Year 3 : 'I loved learning about the countries, seas and to use the map book to find them.'  
 Year 4: 'We used different colours to colour in to reflect the times and weather of the hemispheres.'  
 Year 5: 'I enjoyed learning more about other countries, map work and labelling them.'  
 Year 6: 'It's been very interesting learning about how Climate change is affecting Earth and the research about pollution.'

## An example of skills and knowledge progression within our Geography curriculum

SUBSTANTIVE KNOWLEDGE						
Locational Knowledge	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Country</li> </ul> Name, locate & identify characteristics of the four countries & capital cities of the United Kingdom & its surrounding seas; United Kingdom, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, town, city, village, sea, beach, hill, mountains, London, Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, capital city, world map, continent, Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Wonderful World</li> </ul> Name & locate the world's 7 continents & 5 oceans; United Kingdom, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland; town, city, village, sea, beach, hill, mountain, London, Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh, capital city, world map, continent, ocean, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australasia/Oceania, North America, South America, Antarctica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The UK</li> </ul> Name & locate countries & cities of the United Kingdom (including capital cities, identifying human & physical characteristics including hills, mountains, rivers & seas, & how a place has changed county, country, town, coast, physical features, human features, mountain, hill, river, sea, climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Around the World</li> <li>Rainforests</li> </ul> Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on South America, concentrating on environmental regions & key physical characteristics Identify the position & significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer & Capricorn, Arctic & Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian & time zones county, country, town, coast, physical features, human features, mountain, hill, river, sea, climate, tropics, latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer & Capricorn, Arctic & Antarctic Circle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Amazing Americans</li> <li>Enough for Everyone</li> <li>Marvelous Maps</li> </ul> Use maps to locate the world's countries with a focus on Eastern Europe & South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical & human characteristics, countries, & major cities Identify the position & significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere & use longitude & latitude to find locations on a map Name & locate countries & cities of the United Kingdom, identifying their physical features, including mountains, & rivers, & land-use patterns, showing change over time; Use key vocabulary: atlas, index, coordinates, latitude, longitude, contour, altitude, equator, seas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Changing World</li> <li>Exploring Eastern Europe</li> <li>Trading and Economic Activity</li> </ul> Use maps to locate the world's countries with a focus on Eastern Europe & South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical & human characteristics, countries, & major cities Name & locate counties & cities of the United Kingdom, identifying their physical features, including mountains, & rivers, & land-use patterns, showing change over time Use key vocabulary: key, atlas, index, coordinates

## Examples of learning

Reception – Map work



Year 6 – Our Changing world



Year 4 – Clouds



Year 3 – Playdough Earth



Rec-Where does Grandma live?



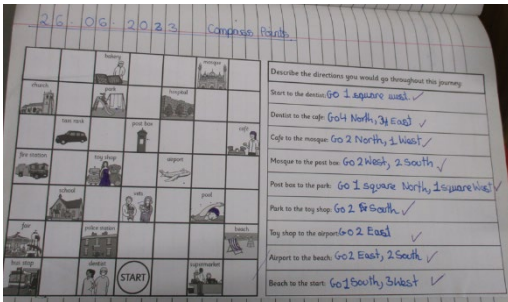
Year 1 finding the continents of the world

Nursery – Treasure hunt



Year 3 & 4 enjoying Walton Firs

## Examples of written work:



### Letter to the Council

To understand ways that we can change the local area

Date: 31.11.2023  
Address: Morden  
Civic Centre  
Morden  
Surrey

Dear Morden Council

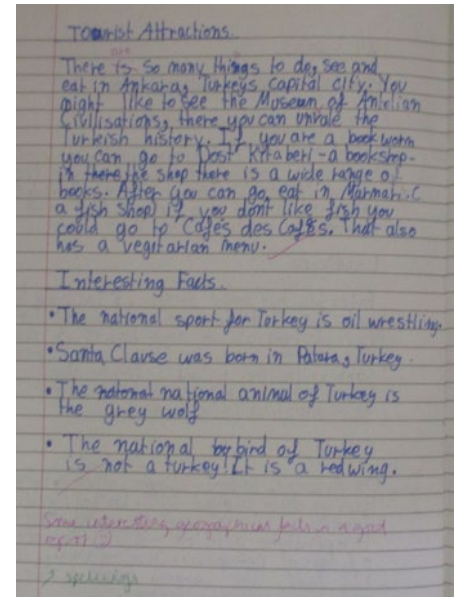
As a class we have been looking at ways that we can make Morden a better place to live.

We think that Morden Park would be better if we had new equipment in the school because fun is really good and easy at it really just easy.

We also think the street would be better if they would be a lot greener and really safe, as safe as your home! really home

Thank you for reading my letter

Yours Sincerely



## Successes for 2023 - 2024

- End of unit assessments were used by staff and children.
- Many trips/visitors were planned and enjoyed by the children.
- Monitoring showed that Geography lessons matched lesson plans, which matched progression documents.
- Children starting to understand and use Geography vocabulary appropriate to each unit of work.
- Diversity is reflected across LTP for Geography.

## Priorities for 2024-2025

- Children will discuss their learning with confidence and apply to the world around them.
- Children will be able to explain the skills they are developing in each unit and use their knowledge to apply these independently.
- Children will complete end of unit assessments with confidence, awareness and a growth mind-set.

## Ambitions for Geography at Morden Primary School

- To develop enquiring, curious minds through a practical approach and revisiting topics in more depth in subsequent years.
- We will engage and excite children by taking their geography learning outside of the classroom where possible; a field trip, exploring our local area or even our school grounds and through the use of technology to allow them to travel the world albeit in a virtual way.

## Some websites you might find particularly interesting

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zcdqxn>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zbkw2hv>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/links-geography.html>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/geography/index.html>

<http://world-geography-games.com/continents.html>