

Compass co-ordinates

- Recap on the eight points of the compass: north, south, east, west, northeast, southeast, northwest and southwest.
- Recall how the magnet of a compass works (year 3 science).

Maps and keys

- Maps vary in size, going from maps of buildings and towns, to maps of the whole world.
- The different symbols on a map are explained by a 'key', e.g. a dotted line often means a border.

Scale

- A map scale shows the ratio of the distance on the ground against the distance represented by the map.
- It can be used to calculate from a map distances in real life.

Core Knowledge

Geography Unit Overview – Year Four

Unit 1: Spatial Sense

Application of Knowledge

Maps

- Recap on a map of the world, asking pupils to name the seven continents; the four big oceans; the equator; the Northern and Southern Hemispheres; and a handful of countries.
- Draw a map of your local area, or school, using symbols as a key. Or, study a map of a country, and simplify it into a simple map with a key highlighting only the essential parts.

Scale

- Pupils are given a variety of maps with different scales, and have to use the scale and a ruler to calculate the actual distance between various points.
- The concept of 'scale' could be related to fractions, which are studied in year 3 and 4. In addition, pupils have studied 'measuring length' in year 3, and should have some understanding of how units relate to each other.

Compass co-ordinates

- Navigate a map or atlas, describing where locations are in relation to each other using compass coordinates.
- Use a compass for an orienteering challenge. Pupils follow instructions to locate a prize on the school grounds.

Italy, Spain and Portugal

- Italy is famously shaped like a boot, and appears to be kicking Sicily (a ball) into the sea.
- Spain and Portugal make up the Iberian Peninsula in Western Europe, and have many tourists.

Turkey and Greece

- Greece is to the east of Italy, and like Iberia it has a large peninsula called the Peloponnese.
- East of Greece is Turkey, which lies in both Asia and Europe, divided by the Bosphorus.

The Mediterranean

- The Mediterranean Sea comes from Latin words that mean in the middle of land.
- Mediterranean Europe is close to the Equator, and warmed by the Gulf Stream, so it is hot and dry.

Core Knowledge

Geography Unit Overview – Year Four

Unit 2: Mediterranean Europe

Application of Knowledge

Turkey and Greece

- Pupils should be familiar with the history of Greece from year 3. Study how different Greece is today from its past.
- Study why Istanbul in Turkey is so important, historically, religiously and politically. Again, link with year 4 history and the city's former name of Constantinople.
- Find out about the spread of Greek and Turkish cuisine, such as hummus, tzatziki and the kebab.

The Mediterranean

- Use a globe to show the how proximity to the equator causes land to be warmer, as the sun hits the land more directly and does not spread out.
- Study the Mediterranean ecosystem. Pupils should understand the sorts of plants and animals which thrive there.
- Study that the Mediterranean is almost enclosed, making it warmer, saltier and less tidal.

Italy, Spain and Portugal

- Study Venice, and its unusual method of transport. Pupils devise ideas to stop Venice from sinking into the sea. Also, link Italy with Rome in Year 4 history.
- Study tourism in Spain, asking why it is so popular, but also the problems with overcrowding.

Rivers and Seas

- Eastern Europe is surrounded by four seas: the Caspian Sea, the Black Sea, the Adriatic Sea and the Baltic Sea.
- The Danube is the second longest river in Europe after the Volga.

Russia

- Russia is an enormous country, covering two continents and bordering with China in the east and Finland in the West.
- Its two most famous cities are St Petersburg and Moscow.

Russian Culture

- In Russia, a different form of Christianity is worshipped known as 'Russian Orthodox'.
- Russians also use a different alphabet, known as the *Cyrillic*, which was developed by St Cyril.

Core Knowledge

Geography Unit Overview – Year Four

Unit 3: Eastern Europe

Application of Knowledge

Russia

- Look at the size of Russia on a map, in order to understand that it is the largest country in the world (covering more than one ninth of the earth's land area).
- Study some of the different regions of Russia, such as Siberia, the Urals, the Caucasus and European Russia.
- Study aspects of Russian culture, such as Cossacks, Russian dolls and Red Square.

Rivers and Seas

- Label a map of Eastern Europe with all the major rivers and seas.
- Pupils write a short story about sailing down the Danube, recalling of the places that they pass through, including Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Belgrade and finally the Black Sea.

Russian Culture

- Pupils complete a comparison chart between Russian Orthodox and Catholic Christianity. The Russian Orthodox church has singing without musical instruments, icons, and Patriarchs instead of Archbishops.
- Look at some Cyrillic text and explore translating simple words using a

London Transport

- Due to London having 8 million inhabitants, it has a very complex transport system.
- This includes the London Underground and the famous red double decker buses.

London

- London is the capital city of England, and home to 8 million people from all over the world.
- It is where you can find the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace.

The South East

- Dover is a famous port, and the closest crossing point to France. You can now get on the Channel Tunnel nearby in Folkestone.
- Brighton is a popular tourist destination in the South East.

Core Knowledge

Geography Unit Overview – Year Four

Unit 4: London and the South East

Application of Knowledge

London

- Pupils have to match images of celebrated London landmarks with their names: Houses of Parliament; Buckingham Palace; Tower of London; the National Gallery; Nelson’s Column; St Paul’s Cathedral etc.
- Study historic maps of London to see how it has grown, and surrounded other towns and villages, hence becoming a conurbation.

London Transport

- Using a tube map, challenge pupils to find the shortest route (by number of tube stations) from one location to another.
- Explain the transport pressures that exist in London, and challenge pupils to devise imaginative solutions to them.

The South East

- Study of this region is relevant to Year 2 history, as William the Conqueror’s invasion first began in Hastings, Sussex, before heading inland.
- Consider the symbolic significance of the White Cliffs of Dover, and perhaps listen to the famous Vera Lynn song.
- Complete a tourism project on Brighton beach, finding out why it is a popular destination.

Coastal Erosion

- The stormy Atlantic sea means that there are many good examples of coastal erosion.
- Durdle Door is an archway going out to sea which was formed by softer rock eroding away.

Tourism

- Due to the Gulf Stream, the South West has a very warm sea and a mild climate. This makes it attractive to holiday makers.
- In addition, the waves of the Atlantic Sea attracts surfers.

The West Country

- The West Country is a mostly rural region covering the counties in the south west of England.
- It is home to the historic port city of Brighton, and the Roman city of Bath.

Core Knowledge

Geography Unit Overview – Year Four

Unit 5: The South West

Application of Knowledge

Coastal Erosion

- Study how coastal erosion creates jagged cliffs, and sandy beaches with processes such as erosion, deposition, long-shore drift and transportation.
- Study the formation of Durdle Door, due to different rock types in a headland.

Tourism

- Complete a tourism study of Cornwall, focusing on the conflicts between the local population and holiday makers. In particular, question whether the market for second homes benefits or hurts the area.
- Study the Eden Project, investigating how a microclimate has been created by the building of 'biomes' to allow 'global gardens' to grow.

The West Country

- Study the West Country cheddar industry as an example of local agriculture. The British Cheese Board have a selection of resources for schools, and Cheddar Gorge organise trips for primary schools.
- Bath would be a good topic for a tourism project, particularly seeing that its Roman ruins link with the Romans topic in Year 4, and Romans in Britain in Year 2.

Northern Ireland

- Northern Ireland is a part of the United Kingdom, and separate from the Republic of Ireland .
- This partition occurred in 1921, when most of Ireland gained independence from Britain.

Visiting Northern Ireland

- The highest mountain in Northern Ireland is Slieve Donard in the Mourne Mountains.
- The largest lake in the British Isles is in Northern Ireland and is called Lough Neagh.

Finn MacCool

- Finn MacCool is a semi-mythical character of Irish folklore.
- According to legend, Finn was a giant who built the Giant's Causeway as a bridge to Scotland, and created Lough Neagh.

Core Knowledge

Geography Unit Overview – Year Four

Unit 6: Northern Ireland

Application of Knowledge

Visiting Northern Ireland

- Children can find out about geographical features of Northern Ireland, such as mountains, lakes, and rivers.
- Look at the tourism industry in Belfast, particularly surrounding the Titanic.
- Create a book or brochure including information, maps and images of Northern Ireland for visitors.

Northern Ireland

- Find out about Irish independence in 1921, so that pupils can understand why this event led to the partition and the creation of Northern Ireland.
- Look at the two conflicting views of the unionists and the nationalists.

Finn MacCool

- Study the story of Finn MacCool (page 41) to help pupils remember Northern Ireland famous landmarks: the Giant's Causeway and Lough Neagh. Show pupils a map of Britain to show the mythical creation of the Isle of Man.
- Once pupils have read the mythical story of the Giant's Causeway, study its actual formation due to cooling lava.