St Barnabas CE Primary School and Kirmington St Helena's CE Primary School

# GEOGRAPHY- Vocabulary Progression

EYFS foundation → KS1 (Stages 1–2) → Lower KS2 (Stages 3–4) → Upper KS2 (Stages 5–6)

Read across to see how language becomes more precise and geographically specific. Vocabulary is revisited cumulatively; stages show increasing conceptual demand, not fixed vocabulary tests or fixed year-group standards.

## 1 Core geographical vocabulary — cumulative progression

| Vocabulary strand | EYFS foundation | KS1 vocabulary Stage 1 | KS1 vocabulary Stage 2 | Lower KS2 vocabulary Stage 3 | Lower KS2 vocabulary Stage 4 | Upper KS2 vocabulary Stage 5 | Upper KS2 vocabulary Stage 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Places, countries and regions | school · village · town | UK · England · Scotland · Wales · Northern Ireland · London · Cardiff · Edinburgh · Belfast | continent · ocean · country · Africa · Tanzania · Greenland · Barnetby | Brazil · South America · Amazon · Nile · Trent · Humber | Europe · Italy · Tuscany · Lincolnshire · Rome · Alps · Himalayas | North America · Mexico · Canada · USA · Cuba · Yucatán Peninsula | Russia · Lincoln · Sahara · Ghana · major city · trading country |
| Mapping and location | map · key · next to · behind · under · around · near to | compass · north · south · east · west · left · right · landmark | globe · symbol · location · route · Equator · North Pole · South Pole | atlas · OS map · four-figure grid reference · direction | grid reference · contour line · eight compass points · altitude | region · peninsula · map comparison · spatial pattern | latitude · longitude · Prime Meridian · hemisphere · polar circle · tropic |
| Physical geography | field · outside · weather · natural object | beach · cliff · coast · forest · hill · mountain · sea · river · valley | ocean · soil · vegetation · physical feature · watercourse | source · tributary · channel · meander · mouth · erosion · deposition | mountain range · base · slope · summit · ridge · fold mountain · volcanic mountain | crust · tectonic plate · plate boundary · magma · lava · epicentre · tsunami | climate zone · biome · vegetation belt · natural resource · tundra |
| Human geography | playground · hall · road · shop · house · farm | capital · city · town · office · port · harbour · human feature | village · field · crop · factory · farming · land use | land use · riverside · community · pollution | settlement · agriculture · tourism · region · land use | hamlet · urban · rural · migration · population · services | trade · import · export · goods · services · producer · consumer · supply chain |
| Weather and climate | hot · cold · weather · rain | season · rainfall · temperature · wind · cloud · symbol | sunshine · snow · fog · Equator · hot place · cold place | tropical · rainforest · hot · wet · climate | climate · seasonal conditions · altitude · temperature | climate · hazard · region · comparison | climate zone · rotation · time zone · vegetation belt · grassland |
| River and water processes | water · rain · river | coast · sea · river · weather | watercourse · river · field · soil | water cycle · evaporation · condensation · precipitation · collection · erosion · deposition | valley · river · mountain · slope | coastline · water · physical feature | water · energy · resources · production |
| Habitats and environments | animals · plants · outside | forest · vegetation · mountain · valley | hill · river · hot · cold | biome · rainforest · emergent layer · canopy · understorey · forest floor | mountain environment · altitude · tourism | environment · volcanic hazard · fertile soil | tropical rainforest · hot desert · temperate forest · grassland · tundra |
| Change, hazards and sustainability | change · different · same | seasonal change · weather · compare | similarity · difference · farming · weather | deforestation · conservation · pollution · erosion | fold mountain · volcanic mountain · contour line | earthquake · volcano · eruption · tsunami · hazard · risk | fair trade · sustainability · transport · consumption · natural resource |
| Fieldwork and evidence | look · observe · map · road | observe · record · symbol · key | traffic survey · sketch map · weather record · route | fieldwork · tally · bar chart · sketch map | land-use tally · annotated map · simple graph | research · evidence · comparison · information source | climate graph · data · OS symbol · six-figure grid reference |
| Comparing and describing places | same · different · near · far | similarity · difference · capital · countryside | human feature · physical feature · similarity · difference | compare · river · region · rainforest | region · peninsula · settlement · climate · tourism | urban · rural · migration · coast · agriculture | distribution · contrast · economic activity · trade link |