

Geographical Enquiry at Wylde Green Primary School

Enquiry is the process of finding out answers to questions. It is a way of investigating the world. It involves encouraging children to ask questions and search for answers. In our geography lessons, children discover the processes that lead to the outcomes that we can see. Some processes are physical ones that have happened naturally (like the way a river meanders); others are human processes (like the way a settlement develops as more buildings are erected). Meaningful learning occurs when investigations are directed by challenging questions which we incorporate into every lesson.

Effective geographical enquiry depends upon the quality of the questions posed

- What is this place like?
- Why is this place as it is?
- How is this place connected to other places?
- How is this place changing?
- What would it feel like to live in this place?

Year 1	What is the same and what is different about our lives and the lives of a child in Antarctica
Year 2	Would you rather live in India or the UK?
Year 3	What effects does the weather have on the people living in Kenya?
Year 4	Why do many people choose to live in Stratford?
Year 5	How has Sutton Park changed from the Victorian times?
Year 6	How do time zones work?



To ensure that our rich and stimulating curriculum is also broad and balanced, the Geography lessons cover four key skills – locational knowledge, place knowledge, human and physical geography and geographical skills and fieldwork.

Location knowledge

Children in year 2 use maps to name and locate the 7 continents and 5 oceans when studying India. This is extended to naming and locating UK counties and cities in year 4 during a Tudors and Stratford Study and exploring how key topographical features have changed over time. Then in year 6, when completing a study on modern and ancient Greece, children explore how time zones work by identifying and describing the geographical significance of latitude, longitude and the Equator and how time zones work within these.



Place knowledge

During the Poles Apart topic, children in year 1 study the human and physical geography of Antarctica and compare them to that of their own local area. This progresses in Year 3 to describing the key physical features in an Egyptian locality such as climate zones, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes and comparing them to that of our local area. Then in year 6 understanding the effects that tectonic plates have on a country during their Disasters topic.

Human and physical geography

In this area we see a progression of vocabulary skills when describing key physical and human features. Year 2 use words such as port, harbour, factory, farm, office, coast, forest, mountain, ocean and valley when describing famous Indian settings. Year 4 pupils within their Tudors and Stratford topic explain why people choose to live in a particular place, referring to land use, climate zones, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes. During year 6's Rule Britannia

topic, they use language such as settlements, land use, economic activity including trade links and the distribution of natural resources to describe the key aspects of human geography and compare with that of different countries within Europe.

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

When learning about our local area, Year 1 use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and the school grounds and create their own maps. Year 4 use fieldwork to observe, measure and record (in graphs and tables) the human features of Stratford. Year 5's study of Sutton Coldfield takes them on a guided tour of Sutton Park by a ranger where they sketch maps and plans to compare human and physical features of Sutton Park, comparing it to Victorian times.



Geographical Vocabulary

Year Group	Geographical Vocabulary
1 & 2	beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season, weather, continent, city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour, shop
3	climate, climate zones, Equator, hemisphere, Tropics of Cancer Year Gand Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic
4	biome, vegetation belt, tundra, desert, grassland, tropical rainforest, volcanoes, earthquakes, water cycle
5	latitude, longitude, the Greenwich Meridian, settlement, land use, natural resources, trade
6	topographical features, land use patterns, environmental regions

Curriculum Overview

HISTORY GEOGRAPHY						
	AUTUMN		SPRING		SUMMER	
1	How and why have toys changed over time?	How do Victorian schools compare to schools today?	Poles Apart		Our local area	What effect did the Wright Brothers' invention have on our lives today?
2	How did the Great Fire of London start and how did it change London?	India	Why do we remember certain adventurers from history?	Pioneers – mapping the journeys of explorers	Who was Mary Seacole and why should we remember her?	Maps
3	Who were the Ancient Egyptians and how do we know?	Investigating our Local Area	How did farming change life for Stone Age people?	Extreme Survival	Who were the earliest civilisations?	Africa
4	What was life like for people in Elizabethan England?	Towns and Cities - Stratford	How did the Roman Empire impact Britain?	World Kitchen	How did Anglo-Saxons and Vikings settle in Britain and what was their impact?	All around the world (mapping)
5	Sutton Park (mapping)	How has Sutton changed since Victorian times? (Local History Study)	Wild Waters – rivers	How did the Second World War affect Birmingham?	Mexico	What was life like in the Mayan civilisation?
6	Natural disasters	Who was involved in the space race and what were its effects?	Greece	Why were the Ancient Greeks so influential?	Beyond Face Value – how do we know who to trust about the past?	Marvellous Maps

What can parents do at home?

As Geography is the study of the world around us, there are lots of activities, outside of the classroom, that you can share with your child, in order to support their geographical learning.

- Explore the Birmingham canals – can you draw a map of your journey?
- Explore your local area – can you name any rivers and parks?
- Plan a route around Sutton Park – what are the gates and pools?
- Use geographical vocabulary (see above) to describe the world around you.

Places to visit:

- Kingsbury Water Park
- Birmingham Library
- Cannock Chase
- Weston Park
- Avoncroft Building Museum

You could also watch:

- Cbeebies – Andy’s Wild Adventures
- Cbeebies – Where in the world?
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Websites

www.ducksters.com/geography

www.natgeokids.com/discover

www.kids-world-travel-guide.com

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone

<https://www.3dgeography.co.uk/>