

Year 4 Background knowledge

Fieldwork

Children observe, measure and record the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

Map work

Scale: A map shows the relationship between measurements on a map and the real-life measurements on the ground. A large-scale map covers a small area in detail; a small-scale map covers a larger area with less detail. Ordnance Survey maps, the most common type of map in the UK, come in several scales.

Latitude: How far north or south of the Equator a place is located. It is measured in degrees ranging from 0° at the Equator to 90° at the North and South Poles.

Lines of latitude: Imaginary lines which run east to west around the globe, parallel to the Equator, and are marked every 20° north and south of the Equator.

Equator: An imaginary line that circles the middle of the Earth; it is a line of latitude and is at 0°. The Equator divides the Earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.

Lines of longitude: Imaginary lines which run north to south, from pole to pole, every 20° east or west of the Prime Meridian. Longitude is measured in degrees ranging from 0° at the Prime Meridian to 180° at the International Date Line.

The Prime Meridian: Imaginary line at 0° of longitude, divides the Earth into the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. The Prime Meridian, passing through Greenwich, London, joins the North and South Poles.

The International Date Line: An imaginary line of longitude, is at approximately 180°. Crossing the line from east to west means the date advances one day. Crossing from the west to the east means the date goes back one day.

What on Earth? (Autumn 1)

Night and day: The Earth spins on its axis, taking 24 hours to make one complete turn. At any time, half of the Earth faces the sun, so having daytime; the other half of the Earth faces away from the sun, so having night-time.

Why different weather? Weather around the world (Autumn 2)

Weather: The day-to-day state of the atmosphere, including temperature, wind, cloud and precipitation (rainfall).

Climate: The average weather for a region over a long period of time (30 years), which allows for seasonal patterns and expected weather.

Climatic zones: Zones determined by long-term weather patterns.

A biome: A specific geographic area notable for the plant and animal species living there. Climate, soil and the amount of water determine what life exists in a biome.

Who are the global caretakers? We are! (Spring 1)

Global warming: Describes the current rise in the average temperature of the Earth's air and oceans.

Renewable energy: Energy obtained from sources that are virtually inexhaustible and replenish naturally over small timescales relative to the human life span.

Sustainable energy: The ability to provide energy to meet the needs of today, without compromising the ability of future generations.

Year 4 'Background knowledge' continues on CD-ROM.