Y6 – Towns and Cities of the UK; North and Central America; OS maps and mapping

Rationale

Children start Y6 by considering the major towns and cities of the UK, the links between them and the definitions between different settlement types. This builds on from their learning about counties in Y5 to see where the distribution of cities and major populations are. They learn that towns, cities, villages and hamlets have a range of features that help them be defined as such and consider these in relation to the local area – what features does Stockton-on-Tees have that makes it a town? Children will then consider whether Stockton-on-Tees should become a city and what benefits or drawbacks that would bring. They also consider the transport and economic links between different cities in the UK.

Children then learn about North America and Central America to build on from their learning about South America in Y5. They learn about the major countries and capitals as well as the major human and physical features, placing them into context with South America and Europe. This also ties in with their historical study of the Maya and identifying the major physical features of Central America that shaped the growth and decline of the Maya. Children can incorporate their prior knowledge of other continents learned to understand the differing cultures of North America in comparison with South America and Europe.

Children finish their geographical learning in Y6 with an in-depth study of OS maps, mapping skills and digital geographic information systems (such as Google Maps). This helps develop key skills and knowledge about how maps and mapping systems interact to find different places in the local area, nationally and internationally. They identify key features of maps and how we can use them to recognise significant human and physical features of an area such as hills, bodies of water, landmarks and settlement types.

Learning

Prior Knowledge In Y5, pupils are taught	In Year 6, pupils are taught	In KS3 pupils will learn
The countries and capitals of South America as well as the major human and physical features	The human features of hamlets, villages, towns and cities	How geographical processes interact to create distinctive human and physical landscapes that change over time
How Manaus is similar or different to the North East in terms of both human and physical features	About the distribution of major towns and cities across the country and the connections that are made between them	About key physical and human features of Africa, Russia, Asia and the Middle East
About conservation efforts to save specific environments such as the rainforests	That major towns and cities enjoy many benefits and some drawbacks	About the wide variety of environmental regions such as polar and hot deserts
About a variety of rivers and coastlines in the UK and their importance to our islands	The major countries and capitals of North America	About changes in climate from the Ice Age to today
That rivers and coasts can change over time and need conservation	About the major human and physical features of North America and how they compare and contrast to places such as South America and Europe	About the use of natural resources in-depth
That the UK is divided into different counties and that division of the land has changed over time	Features of OS maps and key mapping skills which help identify routes and positions of major physical and human features	About urbanisation and economic activity in the primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary sectors
That counties are used by local government to organise boundaries and services	How geographical information systems can make navigation easier and the positives of these systems	

Key Vocabulary

Using geographical language such as:

Classification, requirement, drawbacks, influence

Environmental region, vegetation, season

Symbol, key, Ordnance Survey, navigation, GIS (Geographical Information Systems)

Skills gained

Place	Space	Scale	Environment	Interconnections	Environmental impact and sustainability	Cultural awareness and diversity	Vocabulary and communication
Identify the features of hamlets, villages, towns and cities	Identify the differing spaces that hamlets, villages, towns and cities occupy	Identify the differing scales of towns and cities across the UK	Identify the similarities and differences in environments between hamlets, villages, towns and cities	Identify how settlements across the UK are connected through a variety of means	Identify the environmental impacts from the growth of towns and cities in the UK	Identify the cultural similarities and differences between major towns and cities of the UK	Explain key features of different settlement types across the UK using accurate geographical vocabulary
Identify the 'requirements' for each classification	Identify the increasing spaces that towns and cities occupy in relation to population growth	Identify scale as being one of the considerations for classification of a hamlet, village, town or city	Identify the major environments of North and Central America	Identify the benefits and drawbacks of connections between different settlement types	Identify what settlements need to maintain their classifications and improve them	Identify the connections between towns and cities as a route to diversity	Give reasoned opinions on geographical issues using appropriate vocabulary
Identify major towns and cities across the UK	Identify the different spaces incorporated into North America in terms of environments, cities and regions	Identify the scale of North America and Central America in comparison to South America and Europe	Identify the variety of environments within North and Central America	Identify the connections between North and Central America in terms of position and culture	Identify the environmental impacts of the rainforest of Central America on native populations	Identify the differences in cultures between North and Central America and between these places with Europe or South America	Confidently identify key similarities and differences between North America and Europe or South America
Identify the continent of North America as linked to Central and South America	Identify the impact on space by the environments like rainforests in Central America	Identify the scale of major North American cities and countries in comparison to some of those in Europe	Identify major features of environments through map work in relation to human and physical geography	Identify how maps and GIS can help us determine connections between different places	Identify the environmental impacts of major cities across North America in terms of population	Identify the diversity of indigenous cultures of North and Central America and the preservation of these	Identify key features of OS maps and GIS
Identify major countries, capitals and cities across North America	Identify different types of spaces on OS maps in terms of	Identify scales when considering map sizes					Explain how maps and GIS are useful for navigating purposes
Identify the variety of climates and environmental regions across North America							

Identify 'places' on a map using keys and symbols	human and physical features	Identify the scale of features on a map in relation to their size in real life					