

Year 7 Geography

In year 7 students study a range of concepts that are core to the study of geography. This gives students who arrive from a wide range of primary schools with a range of different experiences and a solid foundation to begin their geography career at Stokesley School.

My Place aims to give students a sense of place and appreciate that not all people (and their fellow students) live similar lives. The field trip with their tutor allows us to further develop the idea of the school as a community, as well as the vital role fieldwork plays in Geography. Map skills form part of this topic as we study local areas on maps and how they change over time. The map skills topic then moves from local to global to give a sense of scale within the study of geography. We encourage links back to any topics covered in primary school and the scale they were studied at, especially the countries and features they should have covered at KS1 and 2.

Misconceptions and generalisations are a huge issue within geography so 'Africa: A Continent of Contrasts' topic aims to bust these myths as well as build on students' prior knowledge of physical and human features, longitude and latitude as well as the concept of development. Students think of ways we can help people improve their quality of life through development in a sustainable way.

The final topic of the year builds on the KS1 study of weather and observation skills built up over primary school to complete an enquiry about microclimates of the school and why they occur. Students will link back to work on biomes from KS2 and covered in the Africa topic, this will be a basis for the study of climate change which we introduce in Year 8 and is a challenge that will dominate students' lives over the next few decades.

Throughout all topics we focus on how to structure answers to show your full understanding of the knowledge you have. A key skill in your GCSEs.

Year 7 Curriculum	Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
Topic(s)	<p>My Place - As you have all come from over 30 primary schools we study the local area to get a sense of place. We study rural and urban locations going on a field trip with your tutor to Eston Moor.</p>	<p>Map Skills -Map skills Use four-figure & Six-figure grid references to locate features on a map Measure the straight line distance between two points on a plan Compass directions on an OS map</p>	<p>Africa: A Continent of Contrasts - We use the continent of Africa to study a range of topics. This term we study some of the physical features of the continent and how they are formed.</p>	<p>Africa: A Continent of Contrasts -We use the continent of Africa to study a range of topics. This term we study the climate of Africa and how the climate has an impact on the physical environment.</p>	<p>Africa: A Continent of Contrasts - We use the continent of Africa to study a range of topics. This term we find out about the level of development for different parts of Africa and how geographers measure it.</p>	<p>Weather and Climate - We will explore different examples of weather and climate. You will look at what factors shape our weather and climate and the impacts it can have on people, the environment and the economy.</p>

Assessment		<p>Measure curved line distance between two points Longitude and Latitude and measure height and relief on a map.</p> <p><u>Using an atlas</u> Use the index and contents pages to find information in an atlas. Identify countries from their outlines.</p>		<p>You will look at rainforests and deserts.</p>	<p>We will also look at ways of helping areas to become more developed and improve people's quality of life.</p>	<p>You will also have the opportunity during this topic to conduct an investigation into the microclimate of our school. You will use specialist equipment as part of this investigation to record data on the weather and climate of our school.</p>
	<p>You will complete a baseline early on in the term.</p> <p>We identify some of the opportunities and challenges of living in rural and urban areas. You take it a step further and research the challenges your area faces and write a manifesto (A list of things you would do if you were in charge of your area)</p>	<p>You will complete a world map showing both human and physical features. And describe a route using all your map skills.</p>	<p>You get to choose a physical feature from anywhere in Africa to research. You then create an information poster to explain how it forms</p>	<p>You work as part of a group who study the climate and the physical environment from Algiers in Morocco to Accra in Ghana. You will be in charge of one biome and then add it to the other biomes your group have produced. You are assessed on group work skills and your individual piece of work.</p>	<p>To check your understanding of development data you compare your life to that of a child living in Kibera Slum in Nairobi, Kenya..</p>	<p>You will have a test on different processes you have learnt about with regards to weather and climate. In addition to this, you will write up the stages of your investigation into the microclimate of our school to show your planning and findings.</p>

Independent Work

Producing a questionnaire to find out about the challenges of your local area
Using Digimaps for Schools to plan a route
Creating your own map of the world with a range of human and physical features
Researching a physical feature in Africa
Researching a biome in Africa - What are the plants and animals like?
Watching video clips to find out about life in Kibera slum
Writing a weather diary to study changes and practice your description
Watching the weather forecast on the news - have a go at presenting your own.