

Subject Geography

Year 7

Term 1 programme of Study:

What is Geography?

How to read an Atlas including how to use latitude and longitude

How to read maps, including distance, direction and grid references.

Term 2 programme of Study:

The geography of towns and cities including why settlements are built where they are.

What settlements are like – their similarities and differences, including a detailed study of Abu Dhabi.

Issues concerning large modern settlements e.g. pollution and traffic congestion.

Where we shop in cities and towns.

How shopping is changing and how this is changing towns and cities.

Term 3 programme of Study:

Weather and climate and how they are different.

The main reasons for why temperatures and rainfall are different in different parts of the world.

Understanding the desert climate.

Homework:

Homework is set each week and should last about half an hour. There will be a range of tasks set, for example: research tasks; the writing of longer essay-style answers; the completion of worksheets; completing classwork tasks up to date and so on. Usually the students will have several days to complete the homework, anyone who fails to complete it by the deadline will be given detentions.

Assessment:

Assessment is on-going throughout the year. We measure a child's progress by using the English National Curriculum 'levels of attainment' descriptions for Geography.

There will be a written 'test' style of assessment after each topic which will last at least half an hour. There will be at least one of these per term. However, there will also be other shorter assessments, that may be written or the result of observations and conversations with the classroom teacher and these will monitor your child's progress in a variety of aspects of the subject. These include:

- Being able to use **map skills and other geographical skills** to do with representing and understanding data in graphs, maps and diagrams and numerical data.
- Being able to **describe the location** of **places** and understand what makes a place similar and different to other places e.g. different settlements and cities around the world
- Being able to **recognize and describe patterns** e.g. the distribution of different climates around the world
- Being able to **understand and explain** the **formation of physical features** such as why it rains
- Being able to **understand and explain** how **changes** in the world occur such as how a settlement changes as it grows.
- Being able to **analyse** data such as numerical data about how the number of different types of shops varies across a city.
- Being able to **evaluate** how we respond to solve the problems of cities e.g. traffic congestion.

How parents can support learning:

Parents can support their child's learning by helping them to develop a positive attitude towards the subject. This might include:

- Helping with homework (though not doing it for them)
- Making sure that homework is completed properly
- In general encouraging their child to become independent learners.

Learning resources:

In Year 7 we mostly use the Foundations textbooks and these are frequently used for homework and revision. In addition there are many paper resources used such as worksheets and, in class, a variety of other textbooks and Atlases are used. The internet is frequently a valuable resource in geography and is used both in class and for homework. Quite often your child will be asked to print completed computer-based work and so a colour printer is valuable.

