



ESW Geography Curriculum – Vocabulary Progression

Year 1	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	Local Settlements: What does my local settlement look like?		The UK and London: What is the United Kingdom?		The UK and London: What is the United Kingdom?	
	Word	Definition	Word	Definition	Word	Definition
	Settlement	A place where people live, like a village or town.	Weather	What the sky and air are like each day (sunny, rainy, windy).	Village	A small group of homes and buildings.
	Beach	The sandy or pebbly land next to the sea.	Seasons	The four parts of the year: spring, summer, autumn and winter.	Town	A place larger than a village but smaller than a city.
	Forest	A large area filled with many trees.	Observations	What you notice by looking carefully.	City	A large, busy place where lots of people live and work.
	Farm	A place where animals are kept or crops are grown.	Record temperature	Write down how hot or cold it is	Government	The group of people who help run the country.
	River	A long, flowing body of water that moves across the land.	Thermometer	A tool used to measure temperature.	Country	A large area of land with its own rules and leaders.
	Map symbols	Little pictures that show real places or things on a map.	Forecast	A prediction of what the weather will be.	The United Kingdom	The country made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
	Human features	Things made by people, like roads or buildings.	Affects	How something changes or influences something else.	Island	Land that is completely surrounded by water.
	Physical features	Natural things found in nature, like hills or rivers.				

Year 2	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	Oceans and Continents: What is the Blue Planet?		Brazil: What is it like living in Brazil?		Climate and Weather: How do climates differ around the world?	
	Word	Definition	Word	Definition	Word	Definition
	Continent	A very large area of land (like Africa or Asia).	South America	A continent made up of countries like Brazil and Argentina.	Precipitation	– Water that falls from the sky (rain, snow, sleet, hail).
	Ocean	A huge body of salty water.	Settlements	Places where people live, like villages, towns or cities.	Atmosphere	The layer of air around Earth.
	Native	Something that naturally lives or grows in a place.	Rural	Countryside areas with fewer people and more open space.	Prediction	A good guess about what will happen.
	Protect	To keep something safe.	Urban	Busy town or city areas.	Climate	The usual weather in a place over a long time.
	Landscapes	How an area looks, including hills, rivers or fields.	Population	The number of people who live in a place.	Airmass	A large body of air with similar temperature and humidity.
	Pollution	Harmful things that make air, water or land dirty.			Northern hemisphere	The top half of the Earth.

	Wildlife	Animals and plants that live in nature.			Southern hemisphere	The bottom half of the Earth.
	Equator	An invisible line around the middle of the Earth.				

Year 3	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	Maps: What can we read from a map?		Natural Resources: Is our use of natural resources sustainable?		Mountains, Volcanoes and Earthquakes: Why is the Earth's landscape so different?	
	Word	Definition	Word	Definition	Word	Definition
	Latitude	Imaginary lines around Earth showing how far north or south a place is.	Natural resources	Things we use that come from nature.	Tectonic plate	Large pieces of Earth's crust that move slowly.
	Longitude	Imaginary lines showing how far east or west a place is.	Non-renewable	Resources that can run out (like oil).	Plate margin	The edges where tectonic plates meet.
	Equator	The line around the middle of Earth.	Consumption	Using up something	Mountain range	A long line of mountains
	Grid reference	Numbers/letters used to find places on a map.	Abundance	Having a lot of something.	Fold mountain	Mountains formed when plates push together.
	Symbols	Pictures on a map that stand for real things.	Fossil fuels	Fuels made from ancient plants and animals (coal, oil, gas).	Volcano	A mountain that can erupt with lava.
	Ordnance Survey	Detailed maps used in the UK.	Renewable	Resources that will not run out (like wind or sunlight).	Earthquake	A sudden shaking of the ground.
	Time zone	Areas of the world that share the same time.	Extraction	Taking resources out of the ground.	Tsunami	A huge wave caused by an earthquake under the sea.
			Mining	Digging into the Earth to get minerals or fuels.	Active volcano	A volcano that can erupt.
					Dormant volcano	A volcano that has not erupted for a long time but could again.

Year 4	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	Settlements: Where and how do people live?		Migration: Are all migrants forced to leave their homes?		Rivers: How important are rivers?	
	Word	Definition	Word	Definition	Word	Definition
	Informal settlements	Areas where people build homes without proper planning.	Migrant	Someone who moves to live in another place.	River	Water that flows across land.
	Densely populated	A place where many people live close together.	Economic migration	Moving to find better jobs or money.	Source	Where a river begins.
	Inhabitant	A person or animal that lives in a place.	Climate migration	Moving because of problems caused by weather or climate.	Mouth	Where a river ends.

Urbanisation	When more people move to towns and cities.	Refugee	A person who has to leave their country to stay safe.	Erosion	Wearing away rocks and soil.
Migration	People moving from one place to another	Source country	The country someone leaves.	Transportation	When a river carries things along.
Push factors	Reasons people leave a place.	Host country	The country someone moves to.	Sediment	Sand, soil or rocks carried by a river.
Pull factors	Reasons people want to move to a new place.	Persecution	Being treated badly because of who you are.	Riverbed	The bottom of the river.
Services	Things that help people live well (schools, hospitals).			River banks	The sides of a river.
Inequality	When people do not have the same opportunities.			Landform	A natural shape on Earth's surface.
Quality of life	How happy, healthy and comfortable people are.			Tributary	A smaller river that joins a bigger one.
Standard of living	The level of wealth and comfort people have.			Agriculture	Farming
				Meander	A bend in a river.
				Estuary	Where a river meets the sea.

Year 5	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	Biomes: Where is the World's Wildlife?		Natural Disasters: Why can natural disasters be so devastating?		Energy and Sustainability: How is the world's energy created and used?	
	Word	Definition	Word	Definition	Word	Definition
	Biome	A large area with the same climate, plants and animals.	Crust	The thin, rocky outer layer of Earth.	Natural resources	Useful things from nature.
	Ecosystem	Living things and their environment working together.	Mantle	The thick layer beneath the crust.	Sustainability	Using resources in a way that protects the future.
	Climate	The usual weather in a place.	Outer core	A layer of liquid metal inside Earth.	Biomass	Energy made from plants or waste.
	Deciduous	Trees that lose their leaves in autumn.	Inner core	A solid ball of metal at Earth's centre.	Emission	Something released into the air, like gas.
	Dormant	Resting or not active.	Plate margin	The edges where plates meet.	Fossil fuel	Coal, oil or gas.
	Equator	The line around Earth's middle.	Magma	Hot, melted rock inside Earth.	Geothermal energy	Energy from heat inside the Earth.
	Fauna	The animals of a place.	Volcano	A mountain that can erupt with lava.	Greenhouse gases	Gases that warm the Earth.
	Flora	The plants of a place.	Earthquake	Sudden shaking of the ground.	Hydro power	Energy made from moving water.
	Latitude	Distance north or south of the equator.	Tsunami	A giant wave caused by underwater earthquakes.	Renewable	Will not run out.

	Temperature	How hot or cold something is.	International aid	Help given by one country to another.	Non-renewable	Can run out.
	Tropics	The warm areas close to the equator.			Solar	Energy from the sun.
	Deforestation	Cutting down large areas of trees.			Turbine	A machine that spins to make electricity.

Year 6	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
	Local Fieldwork Unit: How sustainable is my local area?		Japan: What are the similarities/differences between Japan and the UK?		Flooding: Why is water such an important resource?	
	Word	Definition	Word	Definition	Word	Definition
	Fieldwork	Learning outside the classroom by studying real places.	Atlas	A book of maps.	Condensation	When water vapour cools and turns into liquid.
	Sustainable	Something that can last without harming the future.	Longitude	Lines showing how far east or west a place is.	Evaporation	When liquid water warms up and turns into gas.
	Sketch	A simple, quick drawing of a place.	Latitude	Lines showing how far north or south a place is.	Precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet or hail.
	Investigation map	A careful study to find out information.	Hemisphere	Half of the Earth.	Infiltration	Water soaking into the ground.
	Human features	Things made by people.	Equator	The line around the centre of Earth.	Transpiration	Water released from plants into the air.
	Physical features	Natural parts of the landscape.	Time zones	Areas of the world with the same time.	Drought	A long time with very little rain.
	Observe	Look carefully.	Grid reference	A code for finding places on a map.	Reservoir	A large lake used to store water.
	Measure	Find the size or amount of something.	Thematic maps	Maps that show specific information (like weather or population).	Irrigation	Bringing water to crops to help them grow.
	Record	Write down what you find.	Tectonic plates	Huge pieces of Earth's crust that move.		

Human:	Settlement and population	Resources	Mountains and Tectonics
Physical:	Weather and Climate	Ecosystems, Rivers and Coasts	Economic Activity