

Geography Curriculum – Unit Summaries

Year 4		
A South American Study	Planet Earth: Averting a Global Crisis	Coasts
National Curriculum		
• Locate the world's countries with a focus on South America concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities. • Identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern hemisphere, the tropics of cancer and Capricorn. • Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom and a region within South America.	• To understand how humans affect the environment over time. • To report on ways in which humans have both improved and damaged the environment • To know about changes to world environments over time. • To understand why people seek, manage and sustain their environment • To begin to recognise the climate for a given country according to its location on the map.	• Name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom and their identifying human and physical features and key topographical features including coasts, and land use patterns and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time. • Use the eight points of a compass, four figure grid references, symbols and keys (including ordnance survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world. • Use fieldwork to 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.
Prior Knowledge		
A South America Study Pupils should already know: • Seven continents of the world and five oceans • What physical geography is • Understand climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts. • Where the equator lies • How to read maps, atlases and use digital mapping.	Climate Change: Why Should I Care? Pupils should already know: • Where the equator, tropic of Capricorn, tropic of Cancer lies • Lines of longitude and latitude • How to read maps, atlases and use digital mapping.	Coasts Pupils should already know: • What physical and human geography is • Features of a coastline such as beach, cliff, coast, sea, ocean, port and harbour (Y1) • What a city is and the cities on the UK • How to read maps, atlases and use digital mapping.

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Knowledge to Cover		
- Revise the seven continents of the world and ensure children can name them and locate them on a map. Revise the placement of the Equator and the affect this has on the temperature of places. Then introduce the terms northern hemisphere, southern hemisphere as well as the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. - Once children have explored these concepts focus in on South America. Where is it in relation to these lines and make predictions about the continent (temperature, physical features etc.) Use maps, globes and atlases to explore the countries that make up South America and some key cities. - Choose a country to focus on and complete a case study looking at how the human features compare to the UK. - Look at the physical feature of Rainforests. Look at the features of rainforests and do a comparison with what forests are like in the UK.	- Revise work from the previous unit looking at the Equator, tropics of Capricorn and Cancer and introduce lines of longitude and latitude. - The journey of waste plastic and how plastic affects the environment. How have humans both improved and damaged the environment? - Look at what global warming and climate change are and how it has developed over time- what impact is it having on the world? - Investigate the champions of climate change. - Be mindful about how to be more environmentally friendly and how our school contributes to this. - Fast forward to the world in ten years time and hoe the world may have changed (petrol cars etc.)	- Revise key vocabulary relating to physical and human features from ks1 including: beach, cliff, coast, sea, ocean, port and harbour. - Revise what is a county is an name some counties of the UK - Revise what is a city is an name some cities of the UK - Link this to coast and discusses some famous coastlines and coastal cities beyond the North East (e.g Blackpool). - Look at the human features of coastal towns and how these differ around the country (Lighthouses, attractions etc) and how they have changed over time. - Look at the physical features of coasts and how coast lines have changed over time. - Investigate coastal erosion and defence systems put in place (Visit Blyth Beach to see different defence?) - During the visit use fieldwork to observe, measure and record the human and physical features in the area and sketch the coastal defences on a map following the visit.
Visits / visitors -	Visits / visitors -	Visits / visitors – Trip to the Coast (Tynemouth)