



Geography Vocabulary Progression

Our Vocabulary Progression

Geographical vocabulary plays a crucial role in the progression of our children’s learning across St Michael’s. The development of a strong geographical vocabulary is fundamental to understanding key geographical concepts and also enhances critical thinking, communication, and global awareness. From the start of school, many of our children are introduced to terms that help them describe and understand the physical world, human environments, and the connection of both.

As our children progress through school, a well-structured approach to geography vocabulary enables our children to build on prior knowledge, deepening their comprehension and facilitating discussions about geographical issues. Whether discussing climate, landforms, population, or environmental sustainability, a varied vocabulary ensures that our children are equipped to engage with these topics in both academic and real-world contexts.

Our curriculum outlines the importance of vocabulary progression in geography and its role in supporting our children’s broader educational development. A varied geographical vocabulary ensures that our children, regardless of background, have the language skills needed to understand and articulate geographical concepts with confidence, contributing to their overall success in the subject and wider world.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 1	How do I know about the UK and where I live? (FE) Street Road signs Address Post codes Urban Rural Rossington United Kingdom	Why are some places in the world hot and others cold? (FE) North Pole South Pole Equator Camouflage Desert Glacier	Where in the world are we? (GA Barnaby Bear) Country United Kingdom/Britain Europe Human Geography Physical Geography Maps Atlas Compass North East



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			South West France Passport City Sea River How do? Mountain Positional Language Coast Holiday Landmarks
Year 2	What goes on at an airport and a train station? (FE) Location Security Transit Passenger Terminal Platform	How would my life be if I lived in Kenya? (FE) African Drought Mud huts Ebony Climate European Wildlife Palm tree Mango Kenya	Why do we love to be beside the seaside? (FE) Cliff Tide Resort Beach Ocean Rockpool
Year 3	Why is London the capital city of the UK? (FE) Capital Houses of Parliament Monarchy	How are rivers formed? (FE) estuary source meander tributary	How do we energise our homes and countries? (FE) country Lake District Great Britain



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	Buckingham Palace Underground Thames	erosion deposition	British Isles Urban Rural
Year 4	What are Biomes and how are they created? (FE) Biome Tundra Desert Landscape Marine biome Grasslands Canopy Emergent Understory Forest Floor	How are mountains formed and what causes an earthquake, tsunami or volcano? (FE) Tectonic plates Lava Strata Eruption Summit Tsunami	Why do so many British people go to the Mediterranean for their holiday? (FE) Paella All-inclusive Vacation Olives Feta cheese Greek islands Mediterranean Holidays BREXIT European Union
Year 5	What are the main features of South America? (FE) Pampas Incas Street children Anaconda snake Andes I am somebody	What is Fairtrade and why should it matter to us? (FE) sustainability global citizenship ethical codes developing countries cooperatives Fairtrade premium	What creates a rainforest and why are they located where they are? (FE) Biome Canopy Understory Biodiversity Temperate deforestation
Year 6	How do maps help us find our way around? (FE) Ordnance survey Grid reference Aerial photograph	What do we know about North America and what are its main geographical features? (FE) American state Cherokee	Why is climate change such an important topic? (FE) Greta Thunberg Fossil fuels Greenhouse gases



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	Map symbol Cartography	The 'big apple' Chichen Itza A buck Statue of Liberty	Global warming Ozone layer methane
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*(GA) – Geographical Association

*(FE) – Focus Education