

Overview of Year 9 Geography Curriculum

This is a final year of a three-year course. Many of the skills and concepts introduced in this year are revisited after being introduced in year seven and eight. We aim for the pupils to acquire knowledge, develop understanding, revisiting of and exposure to new skills and the development of positive attitudes to global issues.

1. Brazil:

Pupils start the module by studying Brazil as a country of contrasts. Through a range of role plays, pupils study how different people live their lives and how they make a living. Pupils then look at the physical Geography of Brazil and pay particular interest to the Amazon Rainforest, at this point, pupils learn about the structure of the rainforest and the potential effects of deforestation.

2. Climate Change:

Pupils build upon work in Year 8 and investigate further the causes and effects of climate change. Pupils are given the opportunity to link with young people from other countries to discuss the effects on a personal level.

3. Earthquakes:

Pupils revisit the theory of plate tectonics as studied in Year 7. Pupils then learn about the different plate margins and investigate a variety of case studies in a national and global scale; this includes specific reference to the causes and effects of the tsunami of 2005. Throughout this module pupils are encouraged to improve their empathy skills.

4. Music:

Pupils learn about the globalisation of the music industry and how particular genres of music relate to particular groups of people and cultures. Pupils also investigate the sustainability of the music industry and how music festivals are more than just groups of people enjoying music.

5. Rivers:

In this unit, pupils are introduced to the main features of a river basin and the world's most important rivers. Pupils then focus on flood hazards they explore the reasons for flooding. This includes a comparison between now MEDCs and LEDCs cope with floods.

6. Wonderful World

Pupils will undertake a summer project related to the World Cup. They will investigate the geography of the countries taking part and the continent of Africa.

Homework

Homework is set every two weeks, inline with the school's homework policy. The type of homework varies. In Year 9 homework can be plotting the distribution of earthquakes or tsunami worksheets, which build on classwork are often used. Other examples include writing a newspaper article about destruction of the rainforest or the learning of key geographical terms and revising for assessments. As Geographical topics are often in the news pupils may be asked to watch news broadcasts or documentaries and read newspapers.

Examinations/Key assessments

Pupils are assessed continually in geography at the end of each unit either in a formal assessment test or a designated piece of work. Six key pieces of work will be assessed throughout the year. In the case of an assessment test all pupils will be given advance notice and time to prepare for the test. The class teacher marks each test to a common mark scheme and these marks are converted to a percentage to allow for a comparison within and between classes. These will be marked in detail against National Curriculum Level Descriptors. Each pupil will be taught how to assess their own and other pupils' work to help them become more independent learners and to allow pupils to progress through the levels.

How Parents can help

- Check that homework is recorded in your son's planner
- Check that this work is completed to the best of his ability
- Provide an atlas and coloured pencils to help him complete his homework
- Check that your son has a pen, pencil and a ruler for lessons
- Please encourage your son to use the library and research work on the internet