

Subject: Geography – Year 5, Unit 1, North America

Enquiry Questions:

Is North America the same all over?

What are the similarities and differences between The Lake District and The Great Lake region?



NC/POS:

Locational knowledge

- Locate the World's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and 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, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night).

Place knowledge

- Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America.

Human and physical geography

- Describe and understand key aspects of:
 - Physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle.
 - Human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied.
- Use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider World.
- Use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

Prior Learning (what pupils already know and can do):

- Children can name and locate the world continents and oceans.
- They know the regions, counties and cities of the UK.
- Children know that the Cumbria is in the North West of England and know the human and physical geography of Cumbria.
- Children know the different climate zones and biomes of Europe.
- Children know the features of mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes and rivers and can locate some of the world's largest mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes and rivers.

End Points (what pupils MUST know and remember):

- Know the vast area that the North American continent covers.
- Knows that there are five imaginary lines around the Earth – Arctic Circle, Tropic of Cancer, Equator, Tropic of Capricorn, Antarctic Circle.
- Locate North America on a map and the main countries and cities.
- Know that Canada, Mexico and USA make up the largest part of the continent.
- Know that North America has different climate zones.
- Know the biomes that can be found in North America – Tundra, Temperate Grassland, Deciduous Forest, Coniferous Forest, Mediterranean, Desert, Polar Desert, Alpine.
- Know the physical and human geography, trade, settlements and climate of Canada, Mexico and USA.
- Know that the Great Lakes are five giant lakes between Canada and the USA. Together they

contain 20% of all fresh water in the world.

- Know that Niagara Falls is a group of three waterfalls on the border between Canada and the USA. It is part of the Niagara River, which carries water from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.
- Know that Niagara Falls supports two different industries – hydroelectricity and tourism.
- Know the key similarities and differences between the Great Lakes and Niagara region in North America and the Lake district in England.

Key Vocabulary: continent, Equator, longitude, longitude, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, Tropic of Cancer, Tropic of Capricorn, Arctic Circle, Antarctic Circle, human, physical, trade, industry, economy, topography, climate, biome, lake, volume, freshwater, border, river, waterfall, hydroelectricity, tourism, population, land use, natural resources, push, pull.

SESSION 1: Where is North America in the World?

Recap that a continent is a large area of land made up of countries. Retrieval exercise: name and locate the 7 continents on a blank world map.

- Highlight the vast size of North America.
- Learn that North America is the 3rd largest continent.

Use an atlas and the eight compass points to describe the location of North America in relation to other countries/continents (include Europe and the UK).

Learn that North America is made up of 23 countries.

- Use an atlas to label the countries (and oceans that surround North America) on a blank map.
- Notice that Canada, USA and Mexico make up the largest part of the continent.
- Discuss which ocean is between the UK and North America: Atlantic Ocean.

Recap longitude and latitude lines, and, on a blank world map, locate the five imaginary lines that are around the Earth: *Arctic Circle, Tropic of Cancer, Equator, Tropic of Capricorn, Antarctic Circle*.

- Discuss which lines run through North America: Tropic of Cancer and Arctic Circle.
- Discuss where North America is in relation to the equator: above it.

SESSION 2: What is North America like?

Recap the meaning of human and physical features in geography.

- Use the ClassVRs to visit places in North America and classify them into human and physical features.

ENQUIRY QUESTION: Is North America the same all over?

Research key geographical themes about USA, Mexico and Canada:

- Overall population
- Area
- Main trades
- Main industries
- Capital cities (population)
- Languages
- Economy

End points covered in this session:

Know the vast area that the North American continent covers.

Knows that there are five imaginary lines around the Earth – Arctic Circle, Tropic of Cancer, Equator, Tropic of Capricorn, Antarctic Circle.

Locate North America on a map and the main countries and cities.

Know that Canada, Mexico and USA make up the largest part of the continent.

Vocabulary: continent, Equator, longitude, longitude, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, Tropic of Cancer, Tropic of Capricorn, Arctic Circle, Antarctic Circle.

End points covered in this session:

Know that North America has different climate zones.

Know the biomes that can be found in North America – Tundra, Temperate Grassland, Deciduous Forest, Coniferous Forest, Mediterranean, Desert, Polar Desert, Alpine.

Know the physical and human geography, trade, settlements and climate of Canada, Mexico and USA.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topography • Climate <p>Look back at findings for climate in previous research – hopefully they will have found that Canada is cooler than Mexico. Retrieve knowledge about how the equator impacts climate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn that because of its size, North America has differing climates/biomes. • Recap what a biome is: areas of the planet with a similar climate and landscape, where similar animals and plants live. • Use an interactive biome viewer to compare the biomes of North America. https://www.biointeractive.org/classroom-resources/biomeviewer • Research will show that the biomes that can be found in North America are: <i>Tundra, Temperate Grassland, Deciduous Forest, Coniferous Forest, Mediterranean, Desert, Polar Desert, Alpine.</i> 	<p>Vocabulary: human, physical, trade, industry, economy, topography, climate, biome.</p>
<p><u>SESSION 3: What are the Great Lakes and where are they located?</u></p> <p>Learn that North America is home to the Great Lakes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss why they might be called ‘great’. • Learn that it is due to their size and volume. • Learn that they make up 20% of the world’s freshwater. • Learn that the Great Lakes cover an area of land which is larger than the UK. <p>Name and locate the 5 lakes on a map of North America.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (TIP: Use the acronym HOMES to remember the names: Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie and Superior). • Notice that the lakes are in both Canada and USA. • Learn what a country border is and why we need them. <p>Retrieve from the previous session: are the Great Lakes a human or physical feature? How do we know?</p>	<p><u>End points covered in this session:</u></p> <p>Know that the Great Lakes are five giant lakes between Canada and the USA. Together they contain 20% of all fresh water in the world.</p> <p>Vocabulary: lake, volume, freshwater, border.</p>
<p><u>SESSION 4: Where is Niagara Falls? What are the Falls used for?</u></p> <p>Using a map of the Great Lakes, draw the river that links Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. Learn that this is the Niagara River – label where Niagara Falls is situated along this river.</p> <p>On a blank map of the Niagara region, locate the border between Canada and USA, and the 3 waterfalls that make up Niagara Falls: <i>American Falls, Horseshoe Falls and Bridal Veil Falls.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap that Niagara Falls is a physical feature. • Learn that Horseshoe Falls is the largest waterfall. • The combined falls have the highest flow rate of any waterfall in North America. <p>Fieldwork: use the ClassVRs to ‘visit’ Niagara Falls (Horseshoe Falls) to understand its true size and beauty.</p>	<p><u>End points covered in this session:</u></p> <p>Know that Niagara Falls is a group of three waterfalls on the border between Canada and the USA. It is part of the Niagara River, which carries water from Lake Erie to Lake Ontario.</p> <p>Know that Niagara Falls supports two different industries – hydroelectricity and tourism.</p> <p>Vocabulary: river, waterfall, hydroelectricity, tourism.</p>

<p>Learn that Niagara Falls has two major industries: hydroelectricity and tourism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn that Niagara Falls is used to generate hydroelectricity – offer a simple explanation of what this means. • Retrieval: does this class as renewable or non-renewable energy? Does this mean it is sustainable or not? • Learn that millions of tourists visit Niagara Falls each year. • Understand how tourism impacts the economy in the Niagara Region and what would happen if suddenly tourists stopped visiting the Falls. 	
<p><u>SESSION 5: How are the Great Lakes similar/different to the Lake District?</u></p> <p>Revisit prior learning on Cumbria – introduce the Lake District.</p> <p>Research key data about the Great Lakes and the Lake District, choose a selection from the following to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topography – highest mountain. • Overall area • Freshwater/saltwater • Largest/smallest lake area • Climate • Physical/human features • Population • Land use • Natural resources <p>ENQUIRY QUESTION: What are the similarities and differences between The Lake District and The Great Lake region?</p> <p>After gathering data perform a comparative study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare the similarities and differences between the two areas (highlight that the Lake District is much smaller than the Great Lakes). • Analyse what the push and pull factors are with regards to each area. 	<p><u>End points covered in this session:</u></p> <p>Know the key similarities and differences between the Great Lakes and Niagara region in North America and the Lake district in England.</p> <p>Vocabulary: topography, climate, population, land use, natural resources, push, pull.</p>
<p><u>Future learning this content supports:</u></p> <p>This learning will support future units on world continents, global trade, human and physical geography and comparative studies.</p>	