

Subject: Geography – Year 4, Unit 1, Europe

Enquiry Question:

Are all countries in Europe the same?



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 locate the 7 continents and 5 oceans.
- They know the location of the Equator and Southern and Northern hemisphere.
- Children know that there are different climates in the world depending on where a country is located in relation to the Equator.
- Children know how to use a World map, identify human and physical features on a map and use an 8-point compass.
- Children know that most settlements are located by a river or an ocean.

End Points (what pupils MUST know and remember):

- Know that Europe is a continent made up of approximately 50 countries.
- Name and locate of major European countries.
- Know the key geographical features of Europe – population, landmarks, cultural diversity, languages.
- Know the difference between weather and climate.
- Know that Europe has 4 climate zones: Temperate, Mediterranean, Polar and mountain.
- Know that a biome is a region that shares a similar climate and is home to similar vegetation and animals.
- Know that Europe has different biomes: temperate forests, mountains, wetlands, grasslands and polar.
- Know that Europe's population makes up for 10% of the World.

Key Vocabulary: continent, hemisphere, Equator, country, population, languages, currency, climate, temperate, mediterranean, polar, mountain, biome, wetlands, grasslands, human, human-made, physical, natural.

SESSION 1: Where is Europe?

Recap the names of the seven continents.

- Which continent do we live in? Europe
- Explain that Europe is a continent made up of approximately 50 countries.

Retrieval: use locational language to describe where Europe is in the World.

- Which Hemisphere? Northern.
- Where is it in relation to the Equator? Above it.
- What happens to the climate the closer we get to the Equator? It is warmer.
- Where would be warmer in Europe, the top or bottom? The bottom because it is close to equator.

Use an atlas to name and locate the major countries of Europe including the UK.

- Which country do we live in? UK.
- Which country is the largest? Russia. Explain that Russia is partly in Europe and Asia because of its borders.

ENQUIRY QUESTION: Are all countries in Europe the same?

Recap: locate Europe on a world map. Locate the 7 continents.

Highlight that Europe is one of the smallest continents.

- Children then research about Europe: population (highlight that it is 10% of the world), languages, size, currency, oceans, seas, ancient civilisations found here, flags, royal families.
- Discuss the similarities and differences

End points covered in this session:

Know that Europe is a continent made up of approximately 50 countries.

Name and locate of major European countries.

Know the key geographical features of Europe – population, landmarks, cultural diversity, languages.

Vocabulary: continent, hemisphere, Equator, country, population, languages, currency.

SESSION 2: What is the climate like in Europe?

Recap the difference between weather and climate.

Look at the climate zones on a World map: temperate, polar and tropical.

- Focus on Europe and its climate zones: temperate, mediterranean, polar and mountain.
- Children describe what the climate is like here.

Explain what a biome is: A biome is a region that shares a similar climate and is home to similar vegetation and animals.

- Explore different biomes in Europe using the ClassVRs.
- Children look at the wildlife and discuss the temperature/climate in these biomes: temperate forests, mountains, wetlands, grasslands and polar.
- Children then research a chosen biome of Europe and complete a fact file –
 - What countries fall under this biome?
 - What is the climate like?
 - What flora and fauna are there?

End points covered in this session:

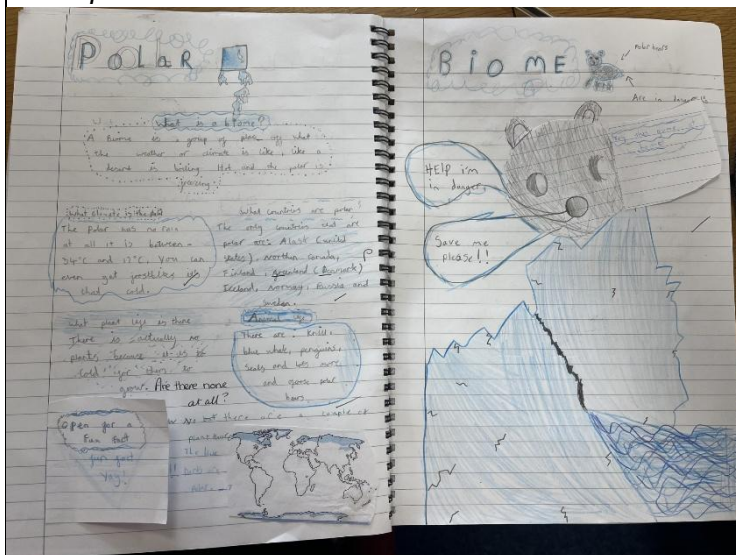
Know that Europe has 4 climate zones: Temperate, Mediterranean, Polar and mountain.

Know that a biome is a region that shares a similar climate and is home to similar vegetation and animals.

Know that Europe has different biomes: temperate forests, mountains, wetlands, grasslands and polar.

Vocabulary: climate, temperate, mediterranean, polar, mountain, biome, wetlands, grasslands.

Example fact file:



SESSION 3: What is the human and physical geography of Europe?

End points covered in this session:

Recap the difference between physical and human features: physical is natural, human is human-made.

Know key physical and human features of Europe.

- Give the children photographs of key physical and human features in Europe, they classify them into the correct category.
- Physical: Lake Como (Italy), Giants Causeway (Ireland), Mont Blanc, Volga River (Russia).
- Human: Colloseum (Italy), Acropolis (Greece), Hans Christian Anderson (Denmark), Eiffel Tower (France).

Vocabulary: human, human-made, physical, natural.

Future learning this content supports:

The content of this unit supports further units on World continents, mountains, earthquakes and volcanoes.