



## Progression in Geographical Vocabulary

The following sets out a framework for progression in children's geographical vocabulary.

The framework draws on key vocabulary from the Oddizzi knowledge organisers for each Scheme of Work. The vocabulary for each year group and scheme consolidates and builds on that which has been established in previous years and topics.

Being able to understand, use and apply key vocabulary is an essential part of children's developing knowledge of geographical places and concepts. It is therefore important that the use of these words is contextualised in the places and topics that children are learning about, rather than simply learned as a word list<sup>1</sup>. The Oddizzi schemes and associated activities make this explicit.

The vocabulary list for each year group and topic is based around three essential elements of geographical vocabulary:

- place names (including familiar places);
- geographical terms and processes;
- locational terms.

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<sup>1</sup> See Ofsted Handbook, 2019. "Inspectors will be alert to unnecessary or excessive attempts to simply prompt pupils to learn glossaries or long lists of disconnected facts."

## Progression in Vocabulary - Year 1

During Year 1, children should become familiar with the following words and begin to use them in appropriate contexts. Topics covered: *Weather and Seasons, United Kingdom, Local Area*

Place names	Geographical terms and processes	Locational terms
Antarctica Belfast Ben Nevis Cardiff Earth Edinburgh England English Channel Europe Ireland Irish Sea London North Atlantic Ocean Northern Ireland River Thames Scotland Wales <i>West Midlands</i> <i>Dudley</i> <i>Dingle Community Primary School</i>	autumn building capital city castle city cloud country countryside freezing frosty ground island map misty month office rain route season shop snow spring street summer sunshine symbol temperature thunderstorm town village warm wind windy winter The months of the year	across Arctic east inside local north northern outside polar south west Prepositions and direction-finding terms such as, above, around, below, left, right, forward, near, inside, opposite, outside

### Glossary

**capital city:** *the city where a country's government is located such as London or Edinburgh*

**country:** *an area of land that has its own government, such as the UK or France*

**feature:** *something you would find in a place that is usually there (such as a hill or a house)*

**map symbol:** *a small picture on a map that shows you where different things are (such as a bus station or a school)*

**rain gauge:** *a tool you can use to show how much it has rained*

**route:** *how you get from one place to another (for example, "you walk up the hill and turn towards the school when you get to the top")*

**rural:** *a rural area has fewer people living there. Rural areas include the countryside, villages and hamlets.*

**season:** *a time of the year with a particular type of weather*

**settlement:** *a place where people live*

**temperature:** *how hot or cold it is*

**urban:** *an urban area has lots of people living there. Towns, cities and suburbs are all urban areas.*

### Progression in Vocabulary - Year 2

During Year 2, children should be able to make appropriate use of the words they have learned during Year 1. They should become familiar with the following additional words, in the context of the places and topics being studied. Topics covered: *Continents and Oceans, Hot and Cold Places, Mugumareno Village*

Place names	Geographical terms and processes	Locational terms
Amazon Rainforest	adapt	Antarctic Circle
Atacama Desert	atlas	Arctic Circle
Australia	cargo	eastern
Brazil	continent	The Equator
Canada	coral reef	hemisphere
China	crop	North Pole
Egypt	desert	South Pole
France	farm	southern
India	field	western
Kenya	flood	
Lusaka	globe	
Madagascar	habitat	
Mexico	hibernate	
Norway	human	
Peru	iceberg	
River Zambezi	market	
Sahara Desert	mining	
South Africa	national park	
Southern Africa	ocean	
Spain	physical	
United States of America	population	
Victoria Falls	rainforest	
Zambia	recycling	
The continents: Antarctica, Africa,	savanna	
Asia, Europe, North America,	soil	
Oceania and South America	waterfall	
The oceans: Arctic, Atlantic, Indian,	wildlife	
Pacific and Southern		

#### Glossary

**adapt:** *find ways to survive in a place (such as using less water in a desert or keeping warm near the North Pole)*

**continent:** *a very large area of land*

**crops:** *plants that are grown to be used or sold (such as rice, corn or fruit)*

**The Equator:** *an invisible line that runs around the centre of the Earth, halfway between the North and South Poles*

**habitat:** *the natural home of an animal or plant*

**hemisphere:** *half of the globe*

**ocean:** *a huge area of salty water*

**population:** *the number of people living in a place*

**wildlife:** *the wild animals and plants in an area*

### Progression in Vocabulary - Year 3

During Year 3, children should be able to make appropriate use of the words they have learned during KS1. Over the course of the year, they should become familiar with the following additional words, in the context of the places and topics being studied. Topics covered: *Climate Zones, Mountains, Coasts*

Place names	Geographical terms and processes	Locational terms
Ben Nevis Cairo (Egypt) Himalayas London (UK) Manaus (Brazil) Mount Snowdon Nuuk (Greenland) Pacific Ring of Fire Santiago (Chile) Scafell Pike Seville (Spain) Slieve Donard	alpine arid avalanche axis landform Mediterranean meteorologist orbit polar precipitation slope summit temperate temperature tropical valley weather station	altitude Equator height above sea level latitude map index map index map reference North Pole Northern Hemisphere scale bar South Pole Southern Hemisphere

#### Glossary

**climate zone:** a part of the world where places have a similar climate (i.e. arid, Mediterranean, temperate, tropical, polar)

**climate:** long-term weather patterns

**dome mountains:** *mountains formed by magma pushing upwards, but without a volcanic eruption*

**fault-block mountains:** *mountains formed by parts of a broken plate being forced upwards*

**fire mountains:** *mountains formed by volcanic eruptions*

**fold mountains:** *mountains formed by the earth's plates pushing together*

**precipitation:** rain, hail, fog, sleet and snow

**weather:** day-to-day temperature, wind, rainfall, etc

## Progression in Vocabulary - Year 4

During Year 4, children should be able to appropriately use and apply the words they have learned during Years 1-3. Over the course of the year, they should become familiar with the following additional words, in the context of the places, topics and concepts being studied. Topics covered: *Our Local Area, Volcanoes and Earthquakes, Antarctica*.

Place names	Geographical terms and processes	Locational terms
Great African Rift Valley Haiti Iceland Japan Mauna Loa Pacific Ring of Fire	crater disaster dormant eruption magma tsunami	epicentre plate boundary

### Glossary

**dormant:** *a dormant volcano is a volcano, like Kilimanjaro, that has not erupted for a long time*

**epicentre:** *where an earthquake starts and is felt most strongly*

**tsunami:** *a huge, powerful wave caused by an earthquake*

## Progression in Vocabulary - Year 5

During Year 5, children should be able to appropriately use and apply the words they have learned during KS1 and lower KS2. Over the course of the year, they should become familiar with the following additional words, in the context of the places, topics and concepts being studied. Topics covered: *North America, European Region – Greece, Rivers, Rainforests*

Place names	Geographical terms and processes	Locational terms
Amazon River	biodiversity	altitude
Athens	biome	Easternly
Belgium	canopy	equatorial
Central America	confluence	estuary
Democratic Republic of the Congo	currency	latitude
Denali	deforestation	longitude
Egypt	emergent layer	lower course
Ethiopia	flood plain	middle course
European Union	forest floor	north-east
Germany	landscape	north-west
Great Lakes	location	Northern Hemisphere
Greece	meander	Northern Hemisphere
Indonesia	migrant	Northerly
Lake Tanganyika	mountain range	south-east
Manaus	mouth	south-west
Mediterranean Sea	retail	Southern Hemisphere
Mississippi River	rural	Southerly
North America	service industry	Tropic of Cancer
River Niger	source	Tropic of Capricorn
South Sudan	state	upper course
Sudan	tourism	Westerly
The Caribbean	tributary	Western Hemisphere
Uganda	understory	
United States of America	urban	
	vegetation belt	

### Glossary

**biodiversity:** *the number of different types of plants and animals found in a particular environment*

**biome:** *a community of plants and animals that is suited to a particular climate*

**Border:** *A line that separates two countries. You may need a passport to pass from one country to the other.*

**drainage:** *how water flows away from an area through rivers and streams*

**ecosystem:** *a community of plants and animals that affect each other and the area around them*

**erosion:** *how wind, water and waves break down and remove rock and soil*

**European Union:** *a group of twenty-seven countries in Europe that co-operate on trade and many other aspects of life.*

**flood management:** *stopping or controlling floods*

**human features:** *features of a place that are a result of human activity, such as shops, farms, homes and roads*

**irrigation:** *the supply of water, especially for growing crops*

**landscape:** *what you can see when you look across an area of land*

**physical features:** *natural features of a place, such as mountains, rivers and seas*

**rainforests:** *forests that are home to many different types of plants and animals. They are located close to the Equator in places with a tropical climate, which is warm and wet all year round.*

**state:** *an area of land with its own government. There are 50 states in the USA*

## Progression in Vocabulary - Year 6

During Year 6, children should be able to appropriately use and apply the words they have learned in earlier years. Over the course of the year, they should become familiar with the following additional words, in the context of the places, topics and concepts being studied. Topics covered: *United Kingdom, Local Area and Region UKS2*

Place names	Geographical terms and processes	Locational terms
Amazon Basin	administrative centre	16-point compass terms (e.g. North-North-West, West-North-West, etc.)
Birmingham	aerial view	equatorial
Bolivia	built environment	grid reference
Brazil	coastline	International Date Line
Bristol	congestion	longitude
East Midlands	consultation	offshore
East of England	developer	onshore
Ecuador	development	Prime Meridian
Great Britain	economy	Tropic of Capricorn
Greater London	energy source	Western Hemisphere
Inverness	finance	
Leeds	global warming	
Liverpool	green belt	
London Array	greenhouse gases	
Manchester	hydroelectric power	
North East England	key	
North West England	landmark	
Oxford	land use	
Peru	national	
Sheffield	nuclear power	
South East England	planning	
South West England	power station	
UK – the main cities, counties and regions	renewable energy	
Venezuela	solar power	
West Midlands	suburb	
Yorkshire and the Humber	sustainable development	
	tidal power	
	warehouse	
	wind farm	
	wind power	
	wind turbine	
	agriculture	
	ecosystem	
	food chain	
	humidity	
	river basin	
	volume	

### Glossary

**agriculture:** *farming*

**development:** *how places and communities change*

**drainage:** *how water flows away from an area through rivers and streams*

**economy:** *the wealth and resources of a place*

**equatorial:** *the hot, wet climate in areas close to the Equator*

**grid reference:** *a set of numbers used to find particular places on a map*

**industry:** *the production of goods (such as cars) or services (such as tourism or entertainment)*

**land use:** *what land is used for (such as housing, recreation, farming, etc.)*

**river basin:** *the area of land drained by a river and all its tributaries*

**sustainable development:** *change that respects the natural environment and doesn't harm future generations*