

# Content Knowledge - Geography

**Definition – teachers’ knowledge of the subject they are teaching.**

- Geography is often defined as ‘earth writing’ by tracing the word back to the Greek *geo*, meaning ‘earth’, and *graphy* meaning ‘writing’.

Geographers organize themselves into two main areas: physical and human:

- **Physical geography** looks to the natural sciences – for example mountains, rivers and rocks.
- **Human geography** looks to the social sciences and humanities – for example, people, cities, and cultures.

The Geographical Association defines geography as, ‘travelling with a different view’.

- The purpose of teaching geography is to equip children to see differently. This means asking better, more critical questions about issues, recognizing global connections and interrelationships and starting to appreciate complex interdependencies across a range of scales from the local to the global.
- High quality geography education should inspire in pupils a curiosity and fascination about the world and its people that will. Remain with them for the rest of their lives.
- Central to the vision for high quality geography education is the notion of **enquiry**.

**Geographers...**

***A geographer is a scientist whose area of study is geography, the study of the Earth’s natural environment and human society. Geographers have a shared curiosity about the world.***

***Geographers build understanding with reference to geographical concepts, supported by integrated skills. Geographers use statistical methodologies and theories of spatial organization in their work.***

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## Geographical Enquiry

- A high-quality geography education should encourage learners to question issues, recognize complexity and understand differences across varying contexts. Geography opens the eyes to a lifelong learning journey with a different 'view'.
- In KS1 and 2 geography should equip pupils with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's key physical and human processes.
- Geographical skills include graphicacy, communication, decision making, mapwork, fieldwork, data analysis.

## Key Concepts in Geography

- At primary level the fundamental concepts are place, space and scale. At secondary school this moves on to change, interaction, pattern and process.
- The big concepts in geography are space, place and interconnectedness. It is through these children can understand and make sense of previously taken for granted assumptions and hidden views.

Key concepts with planned progression on the geography curriculum map:

- *Geographical enquiry*
- *Locational knowledge*
- *Geographical skills and fieldwork*
- *Human and physical geography*
- *Place knowledge*