



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

Year: 7

Subject: Geography

Term 1.1 Africa

An exciting unit on the variety found within the massive continent of Africa. This unit first and foremost challenges students to think of Africa as a huge and varied collection of countries with different cultures, climates and histories. We start by looking at the wonderful landscapes and features Africa has to offer. Then we explore the legacies of the Apartheid, Blood Diamonds and the current issues surrounding Somali Pirates. The final part of the unit focuses on the Horn of Africa and what life is like there. (Our students regularly tell us this is their favourite topic). This is a really important topic for us as we look to dispel the unfortunately common myth that Africa is one large, impoverished nation.

Term 1.2 Rivers

This unit focuses on one of our most vital natural resources, fresh water. We will begin by looking at the water cycle and how it drives the whole process of rivers. Then we will focus on the challenges that rivers provide mainly through flooding. We focus on the differences in preparation, management and response to flooding in the U.K. and Bangladesh as well as giving students the chance to design their own sustainable flood defences. We finish the unit by investigating different river landforms such as waterfalls and their formation.

Term 2.1 Exploring the U.K.

In this topic we develop three skill sets with our students. A widening of their vocabulary focusing on the physical features of the U.K., the development of map skills (including GIS) and an exploration of the U.K. itself. The topic culminates with a focus on the National Parks of the England and Wales. We look at the features that make them worth protecting, the problems the parks face and finally ways to manage them. Towards the end of the unit comparisons will be made with National Parks found throughout the world.

Term 2.2 Ecosystems and Tropical Places

This unit examines the marine and terrestrial environments found around the equator. We will first explore the biodiversity rich tropical rainforests and examine their structure, as well as the animals and plants within. We will look at the challenges they face before turning our attention to life below the waves. Here we will explore the rich biodiversity of coral reefs and again examine the challenges which they face. This unit is filled with key terminology around ecosystems and biomes.

Term 3.1 The Geography of Sport

A favourite unit of staff and students alike. In this unit we use sports such as football, rugby, tennis and athletics to explore huge geographical issues. We cover issues such as the relocation of a business, ideas around sustainability and the importance of wealth. The majority of this unit is based around building the skills required to make important and sustainable decisions as well as then being able to justify them.

Term 3.2 Asia

Our final unit in Year 7 is very similar to the first one. This unit first and foremost challenges students to think of Asia as a huge and varied collection of countries with different cultures, climates and histories. We look at the wonderful landscapes and physical features Asia has to offer. We also focus on the country with the largest population in the world, China. We look at the issues such a large population can create and ways in which they can be managed.

Supporting your child at home

You can support your child at home by promoting the use of showmyhomework. During the year homework tailored to the needs of your child will appear on a weekly basis. In preparation for any in class assessments revision materials will also be made available online and in hard copy when students do not have access to them. It is important that you encourage your child to keep up with any work set as they reinforce the work done in the classroom. Our most successful students are those that are able to complement their work in school with that at home.

Making progress in this subject

To help your child make progress in Geography you should try to expose them to a variety of different news outlets such as newspapers, magazines as well as broadcast news. You could encourage discussions about the world around them. Issues such as migration, Brexit, and climate change will all impact upon areas which Geography covers and any extra insight will only support your child's learning.