



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

Year: 8

Subject: Geography

Term 1.1 Tectonic Hazards

During this unit of work students will examine the structure of the earth and the processes which are continually occurring below our feet. We will look at tectonic plate boundaries and how they can create natural hazards such as volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. This unit is a firm favourite our students and is something many of them like to conduct extra research on outside of the classroom.

Term 1.2 Development and Trade

In this unit we turn our attention to human geography and the ideas surrounding economic development and trade. We look at the ways in which the earth's wealth is spread unevenly and what this means for people in different parts of the globe. We shine a spotlight on the issues associated with poverty and how they can link to global trade. This unit allows our students to develop empathy and gives them perspective on their own place in the world.

Term 2.1 Urbanisation

Another topic belonging to human geography. In this unit we focus on cities and how they work. We delve into the structure of local cities like Birmingham as well as those further afield such as Mumbai. The problems of each area are examined as well as some potential solutions. This is a forward-looking unit with a clear focus on the need to be sustainable in our cities.

Term 2.2 Global Resources

This unit looks at the world's most important resources, water, food and energy. We look at where we source them from and the impact of dwindling supplies. Like most Geographical topics we look at the issues and more importantly ways to sustainably manage them. This topic includes ideas such as water conservation, food security and fracking.

Term 3.1 Coasts

We move back to physical geography with this unit and focus on the power of the seas and oceans around the UK. We look at the physical landscapes they have created such as caves, headlands and bays as well as the challenges they leave for humans. This unit looks to develop decision making skills in our students and pushes them to justify any ideas they have.

Term 3.2 The Projects

For the final half-term, we focus our attention on issues that affect our lives in Britain today. From recent tragedies such as the Grenfell Disaster to the Black Lives Matter movement. We present the facts and evidence to our students before allowing them to make decisions. In this way we want to develop independent thinking and allow students to learn how to make their own conclusions based on evidence rather than opinions. This is crucial for their future character development of our students.

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.