

Geographical Concepts:

The Ofsted research review series: geography (2022) explains that:

'Concepts are important in geography as they draw out the links between processes and ideas. To develop their understanding of each of these concepts, pupils need to learn the range of relevant knowledge and skills. It is from this knowledge and development of these skills that pupils gain a more abstract appreciation of the subject. Therefore, it is critical that the content of the curriculum is broken down into component parts (or chunks) that pupils can first comprehend in their own right, before combining different components to gain a fuller conceptual appreciation.'

These are combined substantive and disciplinary concepts:

- Place
- Scale
- Space
- Interdependence
- Physical and Human Processes
- Environment
- Cultural Diversity

PLACE

Place signifies more than a geographical location, it encompasses distinctive features, landscape, community and diversity.

Features of a place make it distinct, including both physical and human features.

Landscape and surrounding environment also play a part, whether it's a cityscape or countryside near or far.

Communities are often created when people are connected by their shared experiences of a place.

Diversity refers to the fact that no two places are exactly alike. Places are unique, from the way they make us feel, to their size, type and location. Understanding and forming an imagination of a 'place' means looking at all these different characteristics together.

SCALE

Scale can refer to the size or level of geography, from local to national, international and global. Pupils make links between geographical issues and processes at these different scales.

Scale also helps us understand how different geographical concepts are interconnected at various levels.

SPACE

Space acts as a foundation for ideas like location, distribution, pattern, interaction, and distance.

Location refers to where something is, whether that's a mountain or a city. Distribution is about how things are spread out across a space, while pattern refers to how these distributions repeat or vary.

Interaction examines how different elements, such as information, goods and people, within a space relate to and influence each other.

Distance is about how far apart things are within that space.

Pupils learn that these concepts can be observed in various physical and human geographical features like landforms, urban areas, and political systems.

Therefore, understanding 'space' involves examining these features and the relationships between them.

INTERDEPENDENCE

Interdependence is a key idea, highlighting how everything, including people, places, environments, and processes, are linked together in numerous ways.

Pupils gain an understanding that changes or events in one place can impact another place, even if they're far away from each other. Interdependence explores these connections and how they shape the world around us.

PHYSICAL AND HUMAN PROCESSES

Physical and human processes involve understanding the natural and societal influences that shape our world.

Physical processes include natural phenomena like weather patterns and landform development.

Human processes encompass activities such as urban growth and farming that have a profound impact on our surroundings. Pupils learn that the two types of processes are interlinked and influence the other.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Cultural awareness and diversity help pupils to understand the world's rich array of physical and human characteristics. These concepts encourage exploration and comparison of similarities and differences between various cultures and identities, deepening understanding of our global community.

In addition, they shed light on critical perspectives such as decolonising, and young people's geographies, fostering a more inclusive and diverse understanding of the world around us as well as appreciating different values and attitudes and their influence on geographical issues.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental impact and sustainable development explore the relationship between humans and the Earth. Pupils examine how human activities affect ecosystems and lead to environmental changes, both locally and globally. They look at the importance of using resources sustainably to balance our current needs with those of future generations.

