



# Geography Overview

## Chadsmead Primary Academy – Geography Curriculum Overview

	<b>Autumn</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
	<b>How am I special?</b>	<b>What happens in winter?</b>	<b>What is a farm?</b>
	<i>The geographical focus of this unit is on the local environment and the children's place within it. Pupils talk about where they live and use small world resources to represent roads and houses. They are also encouraged to make connections to their community by drawing pictures of local landmarks, such as the park.</i>	<i>The focus here is on seasonal geography and its impact on the world. Children discuss why the weather becomes colder in winter and identify the polar regions using world maps and globes. They also study the specific habitats of animals that live in cold climates and how the landscape changes when ice and snow are formed.</i>	<i>Children learn about rural land use by recognising that a farm is a specific place where animals live and food is grown. The unit involves identifying key features of the farm landscape, such as fields, ponds, and barns, through the creation of a mini farm model.</i>
	<b>Who can help us?</b>	<b>Can you imagine?</b>	<b>What is it like in the rainforest?</b>
	<i>The geographical element of this unit involves global comparison and location awareness. Children use world maps and globes to identify different countries while comparing how police uniforms vary around the world. They also discuss the specific workplaces of people in the community, such as police and fire stations.</i>	<i>In this unit, children explore the concept of home by comparing where they live to the features of a castle. The curriculum introduces a global perspective by discussing royal families in other countries, such as Spain, and the different types of buildings they inhabit. Students also dive into maritime geography, learning to create and interpret pirate maps using simple directions like forwards and backwards to navigate the ocean.</i>	<i>Pupils explore the unique climate and physical characteristics of the rainforest, learning that it is an environment with high rainfall that occurs daily. They study the vertical layers of this ecosystem, from the forest floor to the treetops and the sky, and identify the various animals that inhabit these different zones.</i>
<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Which rhyme shall we choose?</b>	<b>What can we see when we look at the sky?</b>	<b>What can we do on holiday?</b>
	<i>This unit uses nursery rhymes to introduce basic physical and human geography. Children explore physical features like hills and rivers through rhymes such as "Jack and Jill" and "Row, Row, Row Your Boat". They also learn about man-made structures by investigating the strength and shape of bridges, specifically referencing London Bridge.</i>	<i>This unit expands geographical thinking beyond our world to include space exploration. Children compare life on Earth to the conditions found on other planets and the Moon, specifically investigating physical features like lunar craters. They also use star maps in role-play and imagine the vast distances travelled during a space mission.</i>	<i>Children learn to recognise diverse holiday locations, including the beach, countryside, city, forest, and snowy mountains. Pupils are introduced to world maps to understand that there are different countries across the globe. Furthermore, they study how weather and climate (such as hot or cold conditions) influence human activity, specifically regarding the clothes people pack for different destinations.</i>
		<b>How does your garden grow?</b>	
		<i>This unit focuses on the natural environment and the importance of environmental stewardship. Children explore their immediate outdoor setting to search for various plants and seeds, learning to respect and care for living things. The unit concludes with a design task where pupils plan their own garden, choosing and placing geographical features like trees, fountains, and minibeast hotels.</i>	

**Reception**

	<b>Autumn</b>	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>
	<b>Who helps me in my community?</b>	<b>What's it like in space?</b>	<b>What will you see on safari?</b>
	<i>This unit focuses on local geography and the school's immediate surroundings. Children learn how to read and draw maps, using them to navigate the school grounds and identify popular Lichfield landmarks like Beacon Park and the Cathedral. They also study road safety by identifying different types of crossings within their local community.</i>	<i>Geography is extended to the solar system, where children identify Earth's unique features, such as its land and water. They also learn to use modern geographic technology, exploring satellite maps and aerial imagery through Google Earth to find their school and familiar landmarks in Lichfield.</i>	<i>Children use maps and globes to locate the continent of Africa and countries such as Kenya and Tanzania. They explore diverse African habitats—including the savanna, jungle, and desert—and compare these hot environments to the UK countryside. Children also practice geographic layout by creating their own safari maps featuring trails, waterholes, and mountains.</i>
	<b>What happens in Autumn?</b>	<b>Did dinosaurs exist?</b>	<b>Where in the world can we visit?</b>
	<i>The geographic focus here is on seasonal transitions within the local landscape. Children observe how the weather changes and how the natural world prepares for winter. They also explore the concept of migration, learning that some birds travel to warmer countries when the UK environment becomes too cold.</i>	<i>In this unit, children explore the natural world by comparing the Earth's environment today with how it looked millions of years ago. They identify similarities, such as trees and mud, and differences, such as the lack of human-made structures like houses or schools in the prehistoric past. Children also learn about fossil hunting in England and how these remains are found hidden within rocks.</i>	<i>Using a world map, children go on a virtual tour of different continents and countries, including Australia, Italy, France, and the USA. They learn to identify capital cities and famous global landmarks, such as the Eiffel Tower or the Grand Canyon, while comparing the weather and environments of these distant places to our own.</i>
	<b>Is it strong enough?</b>	<b>What will you find in your garden?</b>	<b>How can we protect our seas?</b>
	<i>Children take a global tour of homes around the world, using a world map to locate diverse dwellings like igloos in the Arctic, mud huts in Africa, and stilt houses in Southeast Asia. They learn how these homes are specially designed to suit different climates and environments, from snowy tundras to hot deserts.</i>	<i>This unit focuses on the Spring season and the observable changes in the local natural environment, such as flowers blooming and weather becoming warmer. Children are encouraged to recognise different outdoor habitats and compare their local surroundings to contrasting environments.</i>	<i>Children begin using world maps to identify the large blue areas representing our oceans. They explore ocean habitats and the variety of animals that live within them. The unit also introduces coastal geography, focusing on how lighthouses are built on dangerous rocks to help ships navigate the water safely, and how we can protect our beaches from pollution.</i>
	<b>How do we survive in the cold?</b>	<b>What happens on a farm?</b>	
	<i>This unit develops mapping and globe skills as children locate the Arctic and Antarctic, as well as the North and South Poles. They learn to distinguish between land, sea, and ice on a map. Geography is also linked to the seasons, as they study how winter weather affects the local environment and why some birds migrate to different countries.</i>	<i>Children learn how fields are used for growing crops and housing animals. A key geographic skill in this unit is learning to view the world from an aerial perspective; children use photographs taken from the air to identify the shapes, colours, and patterns that make up the rural landscape.</i>	

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Y1/2	<b>Cycle A (2026/27)</b>	<b>Autumn 1</b>	<b>Spring 1</b>	<b>Summer 1</b>
		<b>What does Chadsmead look like on a map?</b>	<b>What is it like to live in Jamaica?</b>	<b>Cold Places: Where are they and what are they like?</b>
		<i>We're zooming in from a global view down to our own classroom to discover what Chadsmead looks like on a map! This unit gives children a real insight into the world of cartographers, from locating the seven continents and five oceans to naming the capital cities of the United Kingdom. Pupils will learn to spot human and physical features in Lichfield using aerial photographs, conduct exciting fieldwork in our school grounds with the Mr. Men, and master compass directions to create their very own accurate classroom plans.</i>	<i>In this unit, children explore the vibrant island of Jamaica, comparing its tropical climate and diverse landscapes—from the Blue Mountains to the busy port of Kingston—with life in the UK. Students will discover what it's like to live in a country near the Equator, learn about local foods like plantains and breadfruit, and even find out about the famous singer Bob Marley.</i>	<i>Wrap up warm as we journey to the ends of the Earth! We will explore the North and South Poles, learning why these regions are so cold and how the Earth's tilt creates unique seasons. From the frozen sea ice of the Arctic to the mountainous continent of Antarctica, we investigate how Inuit communities thrive in extreme conditions and look back at the historic "race to the South Pole"</i>
	Education Visits/Visitors:	Education Visits/Visitors:	Education Visits/Visitors:	
	<b>Cycle B (2025/26)</b>	<b>Autumn 2</b>	<b>Spring 2</b>	<b>Summer 2</b>
		<b>What is it like to live in Zambia?</b>	<b>Is the UK the same all over?</b>	<b>What is it like where we live?</b>
<i>We're off to Africa to discover the beautiful country of Zambia! This unit gives children a real insight into different ways of life, comparing the modern capital city of Lusaka with the rural village of Mugurameno. Pupils will learn about the vital importance of the River Zambezi, how families protect their crops from wild animals like elephants, and what school life is like for children in a Zambian village.</i>		<i>It's time to explore our own doorstep! This term, we are investigating the four countries and capital cities that make up the United Kingdom. Children will learn to distinguish between urban and rural areas and discover iconic landmarks like Edinburgh Castle and the Giant's Causeway. We'll also find out what makes each nation unique, from the high peaks of Ben Nevis to the traditional sounds of Scottish bagpipe.</i>	<i>We are becoming local experts by exploring our very own city of Lichfield! Using fieldwork and mapping skills, pupils will identify the human and physical features of our local area, including landmarks like Lichfield Cathedral and Beacon Park. This unit helps children understand their place in the world, starting from our school grounds and zooming out to the four countries of the UK and the continent of Europe.</i>	
Education Visits/Visitors:	Education Visits/Visitors:	Education Visits/Visitors: Walk of local area.		

## Chadsmead Primary Academy – Geography Curriculum Overview

Y3/4	<b>Cycle A (2026/27)</b>	<b>Autumn 1</b>	<b>Spring 1</b>	<b>Summer 1</b>	<b>Summer 2</b>
		<b>Where in the world am I?</b>	<b>How does London, UK compare to Oslo, Norway?</b>	<b>How does water go round and round?</b>	<b>How do regions of the UK vary?</b>
		<i>In this unit, pupils become expert navigators as they explore how cartographers use imaginary lines—like latitude, longitude, and the Equator—to find any location on Earth. Children will master the use of the eight points of a compass and learn to read four-figure grid references to locate major cities and landmarks. They will even get outside to practice their fieldwork skills, creating their own professional sketch maps of our local community.</i>	<i>Children will head north to explore Scandinavia, comparing the human and physical geography of London and Oslo. From the spectacular Northern Lights and deep fjords to the vast boreal forests and tundra, pupils will learn how climate shapes the environment and culture of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark. This unit highlights the fascinating similarities and differences between life in the UK and our European neighbours.</i>	<i>Follow the "story of a raindrop" in this unit focused on the water cycle, a continuous process that has recycled the same water since the time of the dinosaurs. Children will explore why settlements are historically built near water and learn about the complex infrastructure that brings purified mains water to our taps. The unit also addresses global issues, comparing water access in the UK to countries like Chad, and teaches the importance of water conservation.</i>	<i>Journey across the UK to discover its diverse topography, from the peaks of mountains to the winding paths of rivers from source to mouth. Pupils will learn how the Industrial Revolution transformed the landscape through urbanisation and explore the unique heritage of the Midlands, including our local "pottery" and "brewing" traditions. By using topographical maps, they will see the UK in a whole new way, understanding how land use has changed over time.</i>
	Education Visits/Visitors:	Education Visits/Visitors:	Education Visits/Visitors:	Education Visits/Visitors:	
	<b>Cycle B (2025/26)</b>	<b>Autumn 2</b>	<b>Spring 2</b>		
		<b>Why does it matter where our food comes from?</b>	<b>Why do people live near volcanoes?</b>		
		<i>This unit takes a global look at our dinner plates, investigating how biomes and climate zones dictate what food can be grown in different parts of the world. Pupils will track food miles to see why 40% of the UK's food is imported and discuss the environmental impact of these journeys. They will also explore Fairtrade and how "trading responsibly" ensures a better future for farmers in countries like Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire.</i>	<i>Pupils will dive into the "explosive" world of tectonic plates and the Ring of Fire, where 75% of the world's volcanoes are found. They will investigate the science behind different types of eruptions and weigh the risks of living near a volcano—such as ash clouds and lahars—against the benefits, including fertile soil for farming, precious minerals, and geothermal energy.</i>		
	Education Visits/Visitors:	Education Visits/Visitors:			

## Chadsmead Primary Academy – Geography Curriculum Overview

<b>Y5/6</b>	<b>Cycle A (2026/27)</b>	<b>Autumn 1</b>	<b>Spring 1</b>	<b>Summer 1</b>
		<b>Why are rivers important?</b>	<b>How can we use and interpret maps?</b>	<b>Where shall we go on holiday?</b>
		<i>Children will dive into the hydrological cycle to discover the vital role rivers play in transporting water across the land. From the source in the mountains to the mouth at the sea, they will explore how rivers meander through landscapes, investigate why they flood, and learn how humans manage these essential natural resources.</i>	<i>In this unit, pupils will master the art of navigation by learning to use the eight points of a compass and six-figure grid references. They will explore the UK and the wider world using Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and digital tools, learning how to calculate real-world distances using map scales and understand the importance of map symbols.</i>	<i>This topic takes pupils on a global journey to explore climate zones, biomes, and time zones across the world. They will learn how latitude and longitude define a location and examine how tourism and natural resources shape the economies and settlements of different regions in the UK, Europe, and the Americas.</i>
		Education Visits/Visitors: Beacon Park Stream Studies	Education Visits/Visitors:	Education Visits/Visitors:
	<b>Cycle B (2025/26)</b>	<b>Autumn 2</b>	<b>Spring 2</b>	<b>Summer 2</b>
		<b>How do mountains impact the world beyond their height?</b>	<b>Why do some earthquakes cause more damage than others?</b>	<b>Where does our energy come from?</b>
		<i>Pupils will look beyond the peaks to understand how tectonic plates collide to create massive landforms like fold and fault-block mountains. They will study mountain environments, from the Himalayas to the UK's own ranges, and discover how altitude affects climate and the unique challenges of living on a mountain.</i>	<i>In this unit, children investigate the powerful forces beneath our feet and why some earthquakes are more destructive than others. They will learn how scientists measure seismic waves using the Richter and Mercalli scales, and explore how government preparedness and building quality can reduce the impact of these natural disasters.</i>	<i>Pupils will investigate the global energy landscape, comparing renewable and non-renewable resources. By examining how countries like the UK and US trade and use energy, they will debate the environmental impacts of different power sources and the importance of energy security in our modern world.</i>
		Education Visits/Visitors:	Education Visits/Visitors:	Education Visits/Visitors: