

Lower School Geography at Penwortham Girls' High School

Year 7 Content

Autumn Term	
Unit 1	My Place in the World – This unit aims to improve students' understanding of where they fit into the world in a locational sense; we start with a recap of continents and oceans before zooming in to look at the geo-political make up of Europe and the confusing boundaries of the British Isles (<i>"Is England a country sir?"</i>) We spend a significant amount of the unit looking at the geography of our wonderful home county, Lancashire.
Unit 2	Cartography – Maps, maps, maps – where would we be without them. We start with the basics of maps skills such a direction, scale, symbols and grid references, before bringing the topic bang up to date with some electronic mapping and GIS. Students will practise their skills regularly and maps make an integral part of the study of our planet.
Spring Term	
Unit 3	Wild Weather – Flash flooding, tropical storm, twisters and more! This topic looks at some weather basics such as <i>why does it rain?</i> and <i>what is wind?</i> before focusing in on some extremes of weather. We look at depressions in the UK before moving onto tropical storms and the massive impact they can bring.
Unit 4	Crowded Planet – the UN expects the population of the world to hit 8 billion at the end of 2022/early 2023, and the number looks set to rise beyond that. When will it stop? Should we try to control it? Where will we all live? Why are parts of the planet still almost empty of human life? Will more people be forced to migrate? An exceptionally topical and relevant topic given that we are all one of that 8 billion plus.
Summer Term	

Unit 5	Being a Geographical Investigator – This unit introduces younger students to the sequence of investigation. They will be make predictions about the environment they find around the school grounds and then come up with a way of testing those predictions, analysing the data they collect and reaching conclusions based on the evidence. This sequence is the cornerstone of Geographical and Scientific investigations, and given that the focus is microclimates, it is also an excellent recap of the Wild Weather topic.
Unit 6	Red Alert Planet Earth – We only have one Earth, so why do we seem so set on destroying it?! This topic looks at some of the big environmental issues of facing us at the moment, (climate change, polluted waterways, desertification, habitat removal) and asks why do we do it and what can be done to stop or tackle these problems.

Year 8 Content

Autumn Term	
Unit 1	<p>Rivers & Flood Management – a Geography classic – the processes by which rivers shape the UK landscape and from time to time flood it. From valleys and waterfalls, to meanders and floodplains, this is pure physical Geography and we love it! We try to ensure all elements of the topic are linked into a single narrative for the students, culminating in the story of everyone’s favourite rock, Bob the Boulder.</p> <p>Topical debates on river flooding linked to climate change round off the unit.</p>
Unit 2	<p>Buried Treasure – This is a units that looks at the contemporary issues around resource geography. We explore what useful resources are to be found under our feet with particular interest in precious metals and gemstones. We also investigate the negative impacts that mining and quarrying for these natural resources can have on people and the environment.</p>
Spring Term	
Unit 3	<p>Same Planet, Different Worlds – Are all people born equal? This topic strongly argues that where in the world you are born in the world has a massive impact on your life changes. We explore the concept that entire countries cannot be labelled as “rich” or “poor” however; Kenya is country in east Africa with great poverty and a rapidly growing international business sector. We round off by looking at closing the gaps through international aid and debt relief.</p>
Unit 4	<p>Mountain Landscapes – Everyone loves the feeling you get from reaching the summit of a hill or mountain! This topic looks at the mountain ranges of the world, the climatic variations that mountains create, the forces that shape mountains, (in particular our stunning Lake District) and the concept of mountains as sacred places.</p> <p>We explore keeping safe in the mountains and what it takes to reach the very highest peaks in the world.</p>
Summer Term	

Unit 5	<i>(Continuation of Mountains Unit above)</i>
Unit 6	Superpowers – global geopolitics – Forget Superman, Thor and The Hulk, we mean global superpowers! The geopolitical landscape is ever changing; are we the mighty global force we once were? Are the USA's days as the world most powerful nation numbered? How do the Chinese do it? Will Russia continue to re-emerge? Who are the new runners and riders? Brazil? India? Is the movement away from fossil fuels going to mean the end of the Middle East's influence?

Year 9 Content

Autumn Term	
Unit 1	Extreme Environments – Many of our wildernesses are under threat. This topic explore distribution of world large scale ecosystems and reason for their locations before going on to look in detail at one particular biome – the hot desert. We explain climatic conditions, geomorphological process, resource extraction and how people manage to live in such extreme conditions.
Unit 2	Global Fashion – Fashion is a giant global industry which sees the movement of information, ideas, materials, products and people around the world. We explore the idea of globalisation, weighing up the pros and cons. We look at the working conditions of those people employed in this sector, both at home and abroad. We then turn our attention to the environmental impacts of the fashion industry, and explore how we can be more sustainable and eco-friendly fashionistas!
Spring Term	
Unit 3	Marine Environments – This unit starts with the geomorphology of the coastline, how and why the beaches, bays and cliffs form, making links back to numerous earlier physical geography topics. We also explore the deep ocean environment. We then move on to look at human interaction with the oceans, in terms of pollution and overfishing, and how as a society and as individuals we can do things to help protect the marine environment.
Unit 4	Energy resources – as nations develop, the energy footprint of individual citizens climbs steeply. In the UK today we are awash with technology and vehicles, live in homes that we cool and heat, and are constantly on the lookout for charging points! This unit looks at what is behind the rise in demand for energy and how we are planning to meet it. Can we reduce our own contribution to climate change? This unit asks that question.

	Summer Term
Unit 5 (whole term)	<p>Hazardous Planet – Volcanoes and earthquakes are some of the most fascinating and deadly geographical features on the planet. They have captured our imaginations and impacted our lives right throughout human history and we still have many gaps in our knowledge about them. This unit sets out to inspire students to delve further into this field; we look at the mechanics behind earthquakes and volcanoes, their global distribution and the impacts they bring. We also take the time to look at the human stories mixed in with these events and investigate how humans are trying to protect vulnerable populations from them.</p>