



North America



Year: Five
Term: Summer



Prior knowledge for teachers

In Year 4 the children will have studied climate zones and how these differ in parts of the world, including the vegetation that are in these areas. They will have explored how climate change is affecting the world and are able to locate the lines of latitude and longitude.

In this topic the children will explore the continent of North America. They will be able to name and locate key countries and their capital cities, along with major human and physical characteristics in these areas. Children will be focusing on two National Parks, one in North America, the other in the UK. By the end of the topic the children will be expected to compare and analyse the similarities and difference between the two parks and give their own views about the locations explaining their reasons.

Key vocabulary

- **Biome** - A major type of environment. The five major types of biomes are aquatic, grassland, forest, desert, and tundra.
- **Conservation** – The act of protecting Earth's natural resources for current and future generations.
- **Capital city** - The city where the government of a country is located.
- **Climate zones** - A climate zone is an area that has its own distinct climate. They also have their own type of vegetation and wildlife.
- **Continent:** A continent is one of Earth's seven main divisions of land. The continents are, from largest to smallest: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, and Australasia.
- **Country** - A nation with its own government.
- **Human features** - Human activity that has affected the earth's surface; e.g. bridges and buildings.
- **Industry** – Industry is any economic activity which creates jobs and generates income.
- **National park** – An area set aside by a national government for the preservation of the natural environment. A national park may be set aside for purposes of public recreation and enjoyment or because of its historical or scientific interest.
- **North America** – A continent in the northern hemisphere.
- **Peal district** – The **Peak District** is an upland area in England at the southern end of the Pennines.
- **Physical features** - Natural features of a location, e.g. a beach, a river
- **Population** – The whole number of people living in a country, city, or area.
- **Tourism** - An industry that drives people to travel for recreation and leisure.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Site** – Places that have cultural, historical, scientific or other form of significance. These sites are protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.
- **Yellow Stone National Park** – **Yellowstone National Park** is an American national park located in the western United States.

Year 5 – North America

Geography - Know that geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments

Question – Which National Park would you most like to live in? Analyse the similarities and differences between the parks and explain your reasoning.

	Key geography knowledge	Key geography skills
Week 1 (Retrieval)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North America is in the northern hemisphere. ● Third largest continent. ● Know the word is split into climate zones and biomes. ● Biomes have varied vegetation and animal life. ● UK sits within a temperate climate. <p>Yr 3 Volcano and earthquake knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Know the structure of the Earth - crust, mantle, outer core and inner core ● Know that the crust is a layer of rock on the surface of the Earth ● Know that the mantle forms about half of the inside of the Earth and is a layer of rock underneath the crust ● Know that the upper mantle is hard but there is magma (liquid rock) beneath. ● Know that volcanoes form at the edges of tectonic plates where there are faults; magma – which is molten (hot liquid) rock bursts through the Earth’s crust (becoming lava). ● Know that earthquakes, volcanoes and geothermal activity are present where some plates meet. 	<p><u>To locate places</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I can locate North America and some of its countries (including major cities and human and physical characteristics). <p><u>To understand places and the geographical patterns and processes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I can understand the geographical similarities and differences between a region of the UK and a region within North America.
Week 2	<p>Countries and capital cities https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/North-America/353542</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● North America is made up of 23 countries. ● Largest country is Canada. ● North America is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the Arctic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. ● N. America sits within many climate zones and therefore has many biomes. ● Greenland is the largest island in N. America. <p>Locate following countries and capital cities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● United States of America (USA) - Washington DC. ● Canada – Ottawa ● Mexico – Mexico Coty ● Costa Rica – San Jose ● Bahamas - Nassau ● Alaska – Juneau <p>Grid references to locate</p>	<p><u>To organise and communicate geographically</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I can use a range of geographical resources (including digital mapping) to give detailed descriptions and opinions of the characteristic features of a location. ● I can explain my own views about locations, giving reasons and begin to recognise why others might have different opinions.
Week 3	<p>North America’s major characteristics</p> <p>Physical</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Niagara Falls: Ontario, Canada ● Grand Canyon: Arizona, USA ● Arenal Volcano: San Carlos, Costa Rica ● The Great Lakes: United States and Canada ● Yellowstone National Park: Wyoming, USA <p>Human</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I can use six-figure grid references, symbols

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statue of Liberty: New York, USA • Golden Gate Bridge: California, USA • Empire State Building: New York, USA • Chichen Itza: Yucatan, Mexico • Tikal: Guatemala <p>Grid references to locate</p>	
Week 4	<p>Peak district National Park https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/learning-about/news/mediacentrefacts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peak District National Park was the first in the UK in 1951. • Know there are 15 national park in the UK. • Location: The Peak District reaches into five counties: Derbyshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Yorkshire and Greater Manchester. • Size Area: 555 sq miles (1,438 sq km) in the centre of England. • Resident population: 38,000. • Visitors per year:13.25 million. • Highest point: Kinder Scout, 636 metres (2086 ft). • Industries: tourism, quarrying, farming, manufacturing. • The Peak District is made up of impressive gritstone edges (Dark Peak), steep limestone dales (White Peak) and rolling hills and farmland (South West Peak). • Unlike many of the world’s National Parks, which are wilderness areas, the Peak District is a true ‘living landscape’, home to 38,000 people. <p>Nature highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mountain hares; the only UK population outside the Scottish highlands • Red deer; rutting can be witnessed at various locations within the Peak District. • Ring ouzel ‘mountain blackbird’; our gritstone edges hold a number of territories of this threatened summer migrant, which are protected through community partnerships. • Water voles; the fastest declining UK mammal, ‘Ratty’ of Wind in the Willows fame can even be seen close to local towns and villages. • Orchids; several species including the scarce frog orchid bloom in the White Peak dales and along former railway cuttings. • Birds of prey. <p>Conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning team assess people’s planning applications checking they are suitable for the area. • Quarry restoration plan –once companies have finished with the quarry site, they need to have a plan for the site after. • Manmade features, such as cobbled path to stop soil erosion. <p>Human: Villages, town, shops, farms, quarries, housing</p>	<p>and a key (that uses standard Ordnance Survey symbols) to communicate knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world.</p>

<p>Week 5</p>	<p>Yellow Stone National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowstone was the world’s first national park in March 1, 1872. • Yellowstone was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978. • Location: Most of the park is in Wyoming, with small parts in Montana and Idaho. • Visitors per year: 3,447,729 • Size area: 3,472 square miles (8,991 km²) • Resident population: July 2007: 377. • Highest point: Eagle Peak in the south-eastern part of Yellowstone is the highest at 11,358 feet (3,462 m). <p>Nature highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowstone contains the world’s greatest concentration of geothermal features. These are natural features that are heated by energy from inside Earth. • Know that energy is in the form of a dome of magma, or molten rock that is just below the surface. The park is in a region that has had active volcanoes and earthquakes for tens of millions of years. <p>The park’s biggest attractions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Faithful Geyser • Yellowstone River • Grand Prismatic Spring • Forests cover much of the land. Lodgepole pines and other conifers are the most common trees. • The undeveloped land is a sanctuary for many animals : including bison (buffalo), elk, bighorn sheep, moose, bears, wolves, and coyotes. Trout and other fish swim in its lakes and streams. <p>Renewable energy/conservation: Solar panels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using natural thermal energy in Yellowstone is not being considered by park managers as the effects could be detrimental to the park’s hydrothermal features. • Decreasing the amount of fleet vehicles used – starting to use hybrid vehicles. • Recycling programme. <p>Human: Hotels, lodges, shops, restaurants, camping sites, visitor centres</p>	
<p>Week 6</p>	<p>Comparing The Peak District National Park and Yellowstone National Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Size • Population • Land use (tourism) / settlements • Physical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plants and animals - Topography (mountains, geothermal, plants) - Wildlife • Conservation 	

North America



1. **Statue of Liberty:** New York, USA
2. **Niagara Falls:** Ontario, Canada
3. **Grand Canyon:** Arizona, USA
4. **Golden Gate Bridge:** California, USA
5. **Empire State Building:** New York, USA
6. **Chichen Itza:** Yucatan, Mexico
7. **Arenal Volcano:** San Carlos, Costa Rica
8. **Tikal:** Guatemala