

### Purpose:

Enquiry and investigation within geography are integral to the educational process, serving to develop critical thinking, research skills, and a deep understanding of the dynamic and interconnected nature of the world. These skills are not only valuable in academic settings but also in practical applications, including future careers and informed citizenship.

### Assessment:

Assess students' proficiency in analysing geographical data sets. This could involve interpreting graphs, maps, and statistical information to draw meaningful conclusions.

Present students with geographical problems or scenarios that require investigation and problem-solving. Evaluate their ability to identify key issues, propose solutions, and support their recommendations.

Pose challenging questions or scenarios that require students to apply critical thinking skills in analysing and interpreting geographical information. Evaluate the depth of their reasoning and the coherence of their arguments.

Assess the appropriateness of the methods chosen by students for their investigations. Evaluate their understanding of research design, data collection techniques, and ethical considerations.

Assess teamwork and collaboration skills by assigning group projects. Evaluate how well students work together to plan, execute, and report on their investigations.

### Cross curriculum:

**Science:** Scientific enquiry and field studies. These involve posing questions, designing experiments, collecting data, and drawing conclusions. This aligns with the investigative nature of geography.

**History:** Historical inquiries often involve researching and analysing events within a specific geographical context. Students can explore how geography has influenced historical developments and vice versa.

**Mathematics:** Data analysis and spatial reasoning. These involve collecting and interpreting data and applying geometry and measurement skills to interpret maps and diagrams.

**English:** Geography involves reading and interpreting maps, graphs, and charts. Students can enhance their literacy skills by analyzing geographical texts, writing reports on geographical topics, and expressing their interpretations through written and oral communication.

**PSHE:** Students can explore issues related to social justice, human rights, and sustainable development within the framework of geography.

**Technology and Computing:** Students can use technology for digital research across subjects. Integrating geographical themes into digital projects allows students to practice enquiry and investigation using online resources and tools.

### Key Stage or stage breakdown:

**Stage 1 and 2:** Students are introduced to basic map-reading skills, with an emphasis on simple maps of the school or local area. They make enquiries which involve following directions, identifying landmarks, and understanding basic spatial relationships. They also focus on simple investigations within the local environment, incorporating activities like nature walks, collecting data on weather, and observing changes in the seasons.

**Stages 3 – 6:** Student's map-reading skills become more advanced, with students exploring different types of maps, including topographic maps. Investigations may involve creating maps, interpreting symbols, and using coordinates. Formal fieldwork is introduced, where students learn to plan and conduct simple investigations outside the classroom. Basic data collection techniques, such as surveys and observations, are introduced.

**Stages 7 – 9:** Fieldwork becomes more sophisticated, with students conducting more complex investigations that may involve measurements, data analysis, and presentation of findings. Introduction to geographical research methodologies. Students may begin to use geospatial technologies, such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) or online mapping tools, to enhance their investigations.