

Zooming In: Exploring The Americas



INTENT

In this unit about the Americas, we will build on our knowledge of continents by exploring one with vastly different biomes and cultures. We will first find out about the continents of North and South America, and the countries that form them. We will also look in more detail at some of the contrasting regions of the Americas, finding out about the landscape, climate and locations of each area. There is the opportunity for us to carry out a detailed fieldwork study of our local area to help us to identify the similarities and differences between a region of the Americas and where we live. We will also develop our map and atlas skills and practise reading and writing coordinates. We will learn about the ancient and new wonders of the world, specifically those of the Americas, and we will consider how other cultures have influenced the Americas and what challenges the people of America may face.

These are the key skills and knowledge you will develop through this unit:

Knowledge	<u>Locational Knowledge</u> I can name and locate at least four countries in North America that link to people we know and those in the news. I can name and locate at least four countries in Central and South America that link to people we know and those in the news. <u>Place Knowledge</u> I can explain similarities and differences between localities in America using a range of human and physical characteristics including GDP and land use. <u>Human and Physical Geography Knowledge</u> I can ask and answer geographical questions about the physical and human characteristics of a range of locations in America.
Skills	I can analyse data and research to help me ask and answer geographical questions. I can use the full range of maps (including topographical/themed maps), atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping (Google Earth) to locate countries and features already studied and use them to research new locations. I can recognise why country size may differ between atlas and globe. I can use locational and directional language including 8 compass directions to describe the location of features on a map. I can recognise and confidently use the 8 points of a compass.

	I can use fieldwork to observe and record the human and physical features in the local area such as taking photographs, making notes, graphing and doing sketches.
	I can create detailed maps of locations identifying a range of features with OS symbols.
	I can identify features on an OS maps.
	I can confidently use 6 figure grid references.

These are some of the key new geographical terms that you will learn in this unit:

Vocabulary

Hemisphere	Temperate	GDP
Time Zone	Tundra	Favela
Prime Meridian	Montane	Slum
Biome	Deciduous	Indigenous
Vegetation Belt	Coniferous	Eco-tourism
Tropical	Pampas	

Throughout the unit, you will learn the meaning of these words.

How can you use them throughout the unit? How can you use them in other work? What other new vocabulary have you discovered?

Reading Links

Retrieve information from blogs about the Americas.

Infer author's point of view from articles about the Favellas.

Writing Links

Write a travel blog (in English books)

Write an advert for an eco-lodge (in Topic books)

Maths Links

Distance, coordinates, latitude and longitude

Other Curriculum Links

American Art - Frida Kahlo and Jean Michel Basquiat