



Edition 10
May
2025

YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY

Curriculum Newsletter

Contact



Brooke Fields
WPT Geography Subject
Director
bfields@cliftonschoo.org

Curriculum Intent

At Wickersley Partnership Trust we understand that getting the curriculum right for each and every individual student is the single most important factor in ensuring progress, encouraging positive engagement and raising aspirations.

We want all students to leave able and qualified to play their full part in an ever-changing world through an ambitious, creative and innovative curriculum, which empowers students with the skills, knowledge and attributes to allow them to succeed in their next phase of education and their working life.

The Geography curriculum is designed to develop curiosity about the world and its people to unlock the key to their future.

Year 8 Curriculum

In Year 8, the Geography curriculum is delivered through one lesson a week. Click the topics below to explore.

Weather and Climate

This topic builds on concepts developed in our Y7 cold environments topic and also links to GCSE topics in paper 1. This relevant topic allows us to address misconceptions around climate change and global warming. It also allows students to be more aware of how they can be responsible citizens of the world and what they can do to help the global climate.

Resources

This topic allows students to develop their understanding of the three main resources that we could not live without; Food, energy and water. These three resources act as a basis for everything from climate change, globalisation and sustainability.

Billionaires

This topic has a major link to history. We explore why the world is how it is, in terms of the rich and poor. This topic includes new knowledge around the causes of uneven development but also builds on our Y7 India topic where we go into more detail around reducing the development gap.

Weather Hazards

This topic shows how the human world is influenced by the natural world, it allows students to explore the causes and effects of weather hazards, such as hurricanes, as well as mitigating against risk and adapting. It builds on students' previous knowledge of development and how this can influence the risk created.

Russia

Russia is the largest country in the world and potentially one of the most diverse. This topic allows students to explore how and why Russia is so vast, including why people live in the east and how those in the north survive. This builds on our Y7 cold environments topic and the underpinning theme of development.

Urban Problems

This topic allows students to explore the problems in urban areas. This builds on issues of sustainability and acts as a foundation for future topics.

Assessment Points

In Year 8, students are assessed each half term in class using a range of skills. These skills include location and map skills, geographical understanding, field work, communication, decision making, and numeracy skills. This then generates a grade which is either working towards entry level, entry level, working towards expected, expected, working towards greater depth and greater depth.

Immerse Yourself

BBC Bitesize Geography 

KS3 Seneca Geography 

Map Zone 

-  Get Revising Quicker!
-  Videos, Links and Games
-  Study Support and Revision

Students can use KS3 BBC Bitesize, along with a range of books and documentaries:

- Weather & Climate: 'Stormy Weather' - Horrible Geography series
- CGP KS3 geography revision guide - complete revision and practice
- Weather Hazards: 'Earthstorm' - Netflix

Test Your Knowledge with Quizlet...

Quizlet's Y8 Geography flashcards are a fantastic way to memorise relevant Geography terms to help you with your studies. Click on the icon below to start!



Praise and Reward

Our rewards system can be broadly split into four categories: classroom level, subject level, school level and privilege rewards. We'll focus on classroom and subject rewards here - for more information about our rewards schemes, please see our website.

CLASSROOM LEVEL REWARDS

Awarded for: working hard, taking risks and rising to a challenge, making mistakes and learning from them, helping others, and taking pride in the school community.

Rewarded by: praise postcards, positive phone calls to parents/carers, positive text messages home, and lesson based prizes.

SUBJECT LEVEL REWARDS

Reward scheme: Star of the Week, Curriculum Awards (Subject/School Way, Participation, Working with Pride, Embracing the Whole Curriculum), High Flyer, Extra Mile, Most Improved.

Rewarded by: names displayed on reward boards, certificates, social media posts.

Broadening Horizons

Our intent is that all students have a full understanding of how to develop themselves as well rounded citizens, maintain healthy relationships and understand how to keep themselves safe both online and in their day-to-day life.

We want all students to know what options are open to them in the future and understand the routes they have in order to progress on their life journey.

Our curriculum will include for all:

- Experiential learning through visitors, guest speakers and trips. In Y8, students have an opportunity to visit Drax Power Station to see first hand how the electricity used in their homes is generated and the plans for the future of green energy.
- Hands-on experiences in and out of the classroom
- Extra-curricular enrichment through activities in Geography Week and Activity Weeks
- Wider opportunities through residential, Camps International, charitable work and our Duke of Edinburgh provision.



Drax Power Station

Drax is the home of the largest decarbonisation project in Europe and is now the site of innovation for bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), a negative emissions technology essential for fighting the climate crisis. Click the logo to find out more.

TED Talk - Climate Change

Young people can help fight climate change. Click on the logo to watch this TED Talk with the Youth Board President of Millennium Kids, Isabella Poll on what drove her to become a climate change activist.



Careers

We run a series of 'Careers in the Curriculum' weeks in our school. For Geography, this week takes place in May.

Students take part in activities to encourage them to think about how what they learn in the classroom can be applied in a number of future careers.

A countryside park ranger is one of the career options to explore, they help build a more sustainable world, and take on a number of roles such as practical management tasks, to working with incredible volunteers, to counting butterflies, bumblebees, and house martins. Click on the logo below to find out more about being a countryside park ranger.



The Geography Way

The Geography Way is followed and referred to in all lessons. The Geography Way has two main purposes. Firstly, to teach students the vital skills they need to achieve their full potential and gain the very best grades they can. Secondly, to teach students how each subject relates to the wider world, incorporating the life skills they will learn.

THE GEOGRAPHY WAY

WE EXPLAIN OUR REASONS USING CONNECTIVES
We explain both sides of the geographical argument when asked to

WE USE OUR OWN EXPERIENCES OF THE WORLD
We consider our global responsibilities

We analyse & interpret data & graphs to the BEST of our ability

WE USE MAPS & refer to locations
We use real world examples

We always make links to the question
We complete fieldwork safely & accurately
We use diagrams & data to help with our learning
We learn & use geography key terms

SUBJECT WAYS

Have your say! ✨

At WPT we're always looking for feedback. If you have any thoughts/opinions on this Curriculum Newsletter, its content or the curriculum in general, please click on the title to fill out a short feedback form.