

S1 Geography in a Nutshell!



In S1 Geography, pupils are introduced to many aspects of the subject, including...

- 🌐 We start with “**What is Geography?**” and then explore the **3 different types of Geography**
- 🌐 **World mapping** (focussed on continents, oceans, countries, latitude and longitude and the types of maps we use – lots of atlas practice in this unit!)
- 🌐 **OS Mapping** (focussed on building confidence with ordnance survey maps and locating physical and human features using 4 figure grid references)
- 🌐 **Weather and Climate** (pupils will consider what the difference is between weather and climate, the different elements of weather and how they are measured and will then consider the different factors affecting weather in the UK).
- 🌐 **Biomes** (pupils are introduced to the idea of climate regions around the world and will study the Hot Deserts in class with opportunity for a research project based on the Tundra)

Our 3 Top Tips to become #topgeographers this year:



Watch out for our **postcards home** which will give you ideas about **questions you can ask your child to generate discussion** and show you how they are coping in class.



Map skills are really important throughout Geography – take the opportunity to **practise finding locations** using a variety of maps (google earth, google maps, atlases, sat nav etc.) to keep your child's skills fresh!



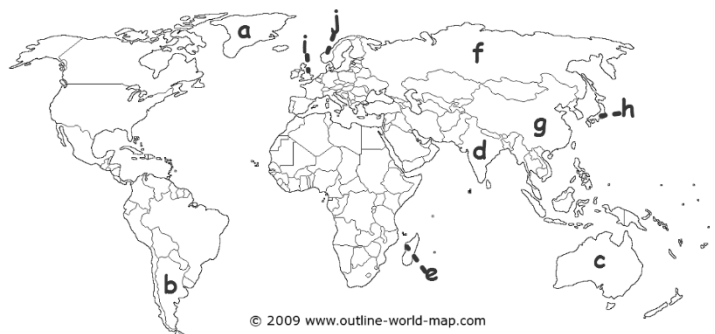
Geography is the study of the world and everything in it – try to **encourage your child to question or explain** what they can see going on around them. Maybe this is outside? Or maybe an event in the news! **Your child's Geography Teacher will be thrilled to hear some topical questions in class!**



S1 is already in full swing for all of our new Geographers – why not try some of these tasks at home to start a bit of discussion about what they are learning?

- A. What type of Geography would “shopping” / “mountains” / “climate change” be? Why?
- B. Can you name all the continents and oceans? Can you point to them on a map?
- C. Can you help me to find this country OR this mountain/lake in the atlas?

name countries A- J without using your notes!



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S1 History in a Nutshell!



In S1 History, pupils are introduced to many aspects of the subject, including...

- 🌍 We start with **The Celts** and explore how life in Britain changed when the Romans invaded and Boudicca rebelled. We also introduce the concepts of recognising bias in both Primary and Secondary sources.
- 🌍 **Scotland in the Middle Ages** we discover how Scotland, or *Alba*, was formed. We especially begin to look at developing social and group-work skills in our "Knights and Castles" project!
- 🌍 **Wars of Independence** We finish by investigating one of the most tumultuous times in Scottish history - how we went from English occupation to becoming an independent country.

Our 3 Top Tips to become #tophistorians this year:



Watch out for our **postcards home** which will give you ideas about **questions you can ask your child to generate discussion** and show you how they are coping in class.



Source work using a mixture of historical and modern sources can not only support a pupil's skills of analysis and evaluation in history, but can be carried through to any new pieces of writing, news articles! Ask your child to **look out for any one-sided arguments** in what they watch or read, and **to back up why** they think that.



History is "the whole series of past events connected with a particular person or thing". We always encourage pupils to look at both sides of the story to encourage **empathy** when they are exploring why particular events happened. Ask your child to consider **why someone did something** or how it affected different people-be it themselves or others.



S1 is already in full swing for all of our new Historians – why not try some of these tasks at home to start a bit of discussion about what they are learning?

- A. What types of housing did the Celts live in?
- B. What are the differences between how the Celts and the Romans fought?
- C. Why did the Romans invade Britain?



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S1 Philosophy in a Nutshell!



Pupils are introduced to the subject of Philosophy which includes...

- 🌍 **The Self-** the world famous Greek Philosopher Socrates stated “know thyself” meaning the initial step to knowledge begins with an examination of who we are. Pupils build upon investigating what we mean by *the idea of the self* to examining the place of humans in the universe.
- 🌍 **The Paranormal World** – this is the philosophy of possibility- do we really know everything about the world? Pupils engage in analysing and evaluating evidence whilst forming and justifying their own opinions.
- 🌍 **Racism-** students are taught about the problems and challenges centred on the idea of *difference* as a way of identifying others. They use their knowledge to complete a project investigating racism in America from slavery to present day.
- 🌍 **Desert Island Survival-** this series of lessons involves the pupils being placed in groups. We present them with a scenario where they work as a team making choices and decisions to ensure their survival. Part of the task is to present their finding as a group as others assess if they have managed to survive.

How to develop skills in Philosophy-



Listen and follow instructions- we supply lots of information using PowerPoint and worksheets. Pupils learn to follow procedures in the class starting with simple ideas and building upon these in preparation for senior school.



Enquiry skills- finding *certainty* is the basic principle of philosophical enquiry. We encourage pupils to question their own opinions and re-think the ideas which have previously formed their knowledge. Pupils are presented with evidence and are taught to form analysis and evaluative skills and apply these in context.



Social Skills- working and cooperating with others is an important aspect of living in a society. We engage the students in paired and group work, honing their social skills and building their experiences of collective decision making.



Our new S1 Philosophy classes are already applying these skills to their learning—why not try asking them some of these questions at home?

- Ψ **How many types of evidence can you identify? What type of evidence do you think is the most reliable? Try and explain why?**
- Ψ **Can we make the statement “A monster exists in Loch Ness”? Which type of evidence would be most convincing proof? Explain why this would solve the mystery.**
- Ψ **Can you think of a question you have always wanted to ask because it may not have an easy answer? Why is this difficult to answer? What do you think you know already?**



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