

British Geographical Issues

Year 6

Key end points of this unit, British Geographical Issues, are:

- To know that the air in many UK cities contains pollution that is harmful to people, plants and animals.
- To know that climate change causes more frequent and severe flooding in the UK.
- To know that in UK we produce millions of tonnes of waste every year from our homes, businesses and industry, managing this waste is a challenge.
- To understand that litter is waste left in open, public spaces. It can cause environmental damage.

This unit brings together all of the previous knowledge of the UK that children have accumulated over their journey through the curriculum. This unit builds on knowledge of the **regions of the UK**, their **geographical features** and changes that may have taken place over time. If children have not secured knowledge of the UK, perhaps if they have recently arrived at the school, it will be necessary to explicitly teach the locational knowledge required as you explore each issue in this unit.

During this unit children will explore the following geographical issues and their impact on Britain; **air pollution, flooding, waste and litter**. They will use geographical data, including an option to use geographical information systems (GIS) to study regions of the UK affected by these issues. Children will learn that government departments such as DEFRA (Department for Food and Rural Affairs) use data on these issues to make **policy decisions** that can impact upon people and the **local environment**. A lesson in this unit has been allocated for teachers to select a local issue for children to explore. This should be chosen in discussions with subject leaders.

Lesson Sequencing:

The sequence of lessons in this unit has been designed to build on prior knowledge and introduce new material in small manageable steps. In lesson 1 children will explore air pollution. They will look at cities of the UK and find out how polluted they are. They will learn that air pollution can cause allergies, disease and even death. They will find out about the work of DEFRA (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) and how their policies can impact upon issues such as air pollution. Studying issues within this unit will help children to see geography in action and will highlight the importance of sustainability.

In lesson 2 children will look at the impact of climate change on flooding in the UK. They will use graphs, maps and data to explore this issue. They will learn about the increase in frequency and severity of flooding in the UK and the human and environmental impact. They will think about how the disciplines of science and geography overlap when we study issues such as flooding.

In lesson 3 children will build on their knowledge of British geographical issues and focus upon waste. Children will learn about recycling and waste disposal such as the use of landfill sites. They will explore data on the cost of waste management in the UK and will explore sustainable solutions for this issue. Lesson 4 builds on children's understanding of waste and focuses upon the issue of litter. Children will explore this issue by looking at data from the Marine Conservation Society. They will learn about beach cleaning projects and the positive impact they can have on the environment.

In the fifth lesson of this unit, children will explore a locally relevant geographical issue. Children should explore local maps, data and if possible visit a location that is relevant to the issue.

To conclude this unit, children will answer an essay question designed to encourage them to think about the issues explored in this unit. Example questions are included in the planning and can be focussed on a local issue or more broadly on the issues studied.

The key substantive concepts focused on in this unit include sustainability and climate change.

The key disciplinary understanding in this unit is that geographers use maps and data to communicate issues that are important to our understanding of the environment.