Walk On Water

St. Paul's C of E VA Primary and Nursery School

Geography Curriculum Coverage Year 4

North America - California

Key Vocabulary
atlas
bordered
city
continent
country
crust
desert
earthquake
evacuated
fault lines
human feature
landmark
layers
modern
mountain
National Park
ocean
region
Richter Scale
rock formation
state
tectonic plates
tourist destination
tremor
valley
waterfall

Mapping

Use an atlas to identify North America on a map of the world.

Use an atlas to identify California on a map of the USA.

Using knowledge of how to use an atlas and map reading, locate Los Angeles and San Francisco on a map of California

Key Knowledge

There are 7 **continents** and identify them on a map of the world: Europe, North America, South America, Africa, Asia, Oceania and Antarctica.
There are five **oceans** in the world: Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean, Southern Ocean and Arctic Ocean
North America is made up of 23 countries.
The United States of America (USA) is a **country** within North America. Know that the USA is **bordered** by Canada to the north and Mexico to the south.
The USA is made up of 50 **states**.
A state is an area including many cities and towns, similar to counties in England.
There are 50 stars on the USA flag - one to represent each state.
California is a state within the USA.
California is located on the West coast of the USA, besides the Pacific Ocean.

	Costal Region	Desert Region	Mountain Region	Valley Region
Location	1264 miles along the west coastof California, beside the Pacific Ocean.	South-eastern California. There are 3 deserts: Death Valley, Mojave Desert, Colorado Desert	Mainly located in the North.	Central California. A long area of low land between hills or mountains.2 main valleys: San Joaquin and Sacramento
Environment	Northern beaches have rockycoasts and cool water. Southern beaches have sandy beaches and warm water.	Dry with little or no vegetation.The land is flat and low.	Rocky mountains with valleys,rivers, lakes and streams. The highest point in the continental USA is locatedhere: Mount Whitney.	This region has perfect conditions to grow food and around one half of the world'sfruit, vegetables and nuts are grown here.
Climate	Hot in summer, cool in winter.	The desert has very hot summers - over 100 degrees. The desert has very cold winters - this is the only desertin USA which has snow.	Cool summers, cold winters.Snowy in winter.	Hot, dry summers. Cool, damp winters.Foggy.
Key Locations	**Malibu** This is a city in California with a selection of beaches, which are very popular with tourists. The beaches are sandy and thewater is warm. These beaches attract surfers, who enjoy the waves.	**Death Valley National Park** America's largest national park.The lowest, driest and hottest area in North America. The hottest ever temperature recorded on earth was recorded here at 134 degrees. Hikers are advised not to go out after 10am, the heat is too dangerous.	**Yosemite National Park** One of America's national parks. It is very popular with hikers and rock climbers and has over4 million tourists per year. Famous waterfalls and rockformations.	**Sacramento Valley** This is an area of flat grasslandswhich are perfect for growing food and plants. Most of the land in this valley isused for farming. This area is famous for the Sutter Buttes, which are small mountains formed by an extinct volcano.

Cities

There are many **cities** in California - over 480.
Los Angeles (LA) and San Francisco are two famous cities.
Both of these cities are located on the coast of California - Los Angeles to the South and San Francisco to the North.
Los Angeles is warmer and sunnier than San Francisco (it is further south and nearer to the equator).
San Francisco is known as 'The Windy City' as it is often windy and foggy.
Identify the key **landmarks** of each of these cities: Hollywood Sign, Hollywood Walk of Fame, Santa Monica Pier, Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, Lombard Street
These landmarks are all **human features,** as they have been made by people.
These landmarks are **tourist destinations**, meaning people travel to visit them.

Earthquakes

The Earth is made up of different **layers**.
The **crust** is made up of different pieces, called **tectonic plates.**
These plates fit together like a jigsaw and are always moving, although they move so slowly, we can't usually feel them move.

The edges of plates, where two **plates** meet, are called **fault lines** or **faults**.
The edges of these pieces rub against each other and this can cause sudden movements which can lead to earth **tremors** or **earthquakes**.
Faults can rub together, push toward each other, or pull away from each other.

Earthquakes are a violent jolt that shakes the land.
Earthquakes are measured on the **Richter Scale**.
Some earthquakes are small and we can barely feel them, whereas other earthquakes are much stronger and can cause lots of damage.

California has a **fault line** running the entire length of it. This fault line is called the San Andreas fault.

Places located along the **fault line** frequently experience **earthquakes**, although most are very small and unnoticeable. Occasionally stronger **earthquakes** happen and these can be very dangerous.
In 1906 there was a large earthquake in the city of San Francisco, which is located on the fault line. This **earthquake** was 7.9 on the **Richter Scale**.
This earthquake destroyed houses and broke gas pipes and water pipes. The broken gas pipes led to fires, which were unable to be put out due to the broken water pipes. Many people had to live in tents for 2 years, until their houses could be rebuilt.
With modern **technology** scientists can predict when strong earthquakes are going to happen and people can be **evacuated** to safety. Modern buildings can be built to withstand **earthquakes**.

National Curriculum—Key stage 2

Pupils should extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local area to include the United Kingdom and **Europe**, North and South America. This **will include the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features. They should develop their use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills to enhance their locational and place knowledge.**

Pupils should be taught to:

Locational knowledge

- Locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) and North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities
- name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time
- identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night)

Place knowledge

- understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America

Human and physical geography

describe and understand key aspects of:

- physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle
- human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water

Geographical skills and fieldwork

- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied
- use the eight points of a compass, four and six-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world Geography
- use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.