



# St Benedict's Catholic School

*The Catholic Secondary School for West Suffolk*

## Geography Curriculum Guide

### Year 8

#### Autumn Taught Content

##### Tectonics

Pupils learn about the exciting topic of plate tectonics which includes earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis. Pupils learn how plates move and the resulting hazards is important knowledge about how the Earth works. Pupils learn how the Earth's continents have moved and why. It is important that students understand the workings of the Earth in order to understand why processes such as urbanisation occur in the patterns which they do.

##### Natural Resources

Natural resources is a relatively new and contemporary topic which aims to introduce the concept of sustainability as increasing threats from climate change become apparent. It is important that pupils appreciate the difference between renewable and non-renewable sources of energy, and the difficulties in transitioning. Pupils also consider causes and impacts of the deforestation of tropical rainforests through exploring the motivations of stakeholders and economic development as well as the pressing environmental issues.

#### Spring Taught Content

##### Urbanisation

This topic looks at how urbanisation has changed throughout history but also why it is that countries urbanise and the effects that urbanisation has on various places. Pupils explore migration patterns and the push and pull factors that result in the majority of the population living in urban towns and cities. The consumption of natural resources is revisited as is the ongoing theme of sustainability in a rapidly changing world.

##### Asia

Although banded together as a continent, Asia is one of the most diverse regions on Earth. This topic aims to show students the similarities but also the differences of Asia, by focussing on 4 sub-continent. Themes from urbanisation are expanded upon as pupils explore how urbanisation has affected the regions differently and brought uneven development and some problems to these areas.

## Summer Taught Content

### Development

This topic builds upon understanding gained in the Asian topic to really explore in depth what development is, how it measured and provide contemporary case studies to demonstrate the differences between LEDC's and MEDC's and the concept of urbanisation and sustainable development. Pupils have a range of decision-making activities and opportunities for critical thinking which lead to a synoptic style assessment which draws on aspects of the previous topics taught in year 8.

### Ecosystems

Pupils learn about the climatic factors that influence biomes and ecosystems and they have an opportunity to develop fieldwork skills by investigating whether developers should be allowed to develop the school field. This requires pupils to undertake a biodiversity survey and present their finding and recommendations.

### Assessment

There are 2 assessments per half-term, the first is a marked piece of work, it could be a poster, presentation or a written answer. The second is a more formal end of unit exam.

### Homework Expectations

Homework is set every 2 weeks.

### Reading List

	<b>Support</b>	<b>Stretch</b>	<b>Challenge</b>
<b>Tectonics</b>	"Violent Volcanoes"-Anita Ganeri (Horrible Geography) "Earth-Shattering Earthquakes"- Anita Ganeri (Horrible Geography) "Freaky Peaks"- Anita Ganeri (Horrible Geography)	'Plate Tectonics' - Iain Stewart	'Solving the Puzzle under the Sea' - Paul Burleigh and Raul Colon
<b>Natural Resources</b>	What Is Climate Change? - Gail Herman	'Climate Change' - Charles, Prince of Wales	There Is No Planet B: A Handbook for the Make or Break Years - Mike Berners-Lee

<b>Urbanisation</b>	Geography of the World: The Essential Family Guide to Geography and Culture	"Boy in the tower"- Polly Ho Yen	Arrival City: How the Largest Migration in History is Reshaping Our World - Doug Saunders
<b>Asia</b>	"Land of seven rivers: History of India's Geography"- Sanjeev Sanyal	"India : One Man's Personal Journey Round the Subcontinent"- Sanjeev Bhaskar	Asia (a True Book: The Seven Continents) - John Son
<b>Development</b>	Geography of the World: The Essential Family Guide to Geography and Culture	History of World Trade in Maps- Phillip Parker	'The Almighty Dollar - Dharshini David
<b>Ecosystems</b>	"Bloomin Rainforests"- Anita Ganeri (Horrible Geography)	The Incredible Ecosystems of Planet Earth - Rachel Ignotofsky	Life on Earth - David Attenborough

### Extra and Super Curricular Opportunities

Pupils are welcomed to the Davis Attenborough documentary club during lunchtimes. During Activities Week pupils are given the opportunity to visit Colchester Zoo, The National History Museum and an activity day at a local Wildlife Trust.