



Year 2 Geography Autumn 2026

What is London like?

National Curriculum objectives

Name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom and its surrounding seas

use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to:

- key physical features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather
- key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop

Use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language [for example, near and far; left and right], to describe the location of features and routes on a map

Key Vocabulary

Direction, compass, measure, settlement, river, road, building, population, density, London, borough, community, capital, government

Prior learning

Year 1

Know capital cities in the UK and locate these on a map of the UK using an **atlas** to help: **London, Belfast, Edinburgh, Cardiff.**

Know and locate the four countries of the UK: **England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales**

London landmarks linked to the Royal family

Learning Sequence

(Using PlanBee)

Overarching Question:

What is London like?

Key activity

Prior learning check to assess year 1 knowledge

Find the UK on a map and name the countries that make up the UK

Name the capital cities

Identify seas around the UK

- What do children remember about London?

Key Activity (Possibly needed)

To **address gaps in prior knowledge**. Use Google Earth, atlases and maps.

- Countries that make up the UK

- Capital cities of the countries that make up the UK

- The seas around the UK

Substantive & Procedural Knowledge Core Components	Disciplinary Knowledge/Skills
Know that we live in the England, which is a country in the UK Know that 4 countries make up the UK: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales Understand that a sea is a small part of an ocean and seas are often where an ocean and the land meet. Know that the UK is surrounded by seas - it is an island. The seas surrounding the UK are the North Sea, The English Channel, The Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean Know that UK stands for 'The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland' and that this is usually shortened to the United Kingdom Know that Great Britain is the name for England, Scotland and Wales Know that Northern Ireland is on an island to the West of the UK; Know that the southern part of the island is known as Ireland or Eire and that this is not part of the UK Know that people from England are known as English, people from Scotland are known as Scottish, people from Wales are known as Welsh and people from Ireland are known as Irish. Know that a city is the largest type of settlement, containing lots of buildings and lots of people. They usually have hospitals, sport facilities, universities, shops, offices, many houses and a cathedral. Know that a capital city is the most important city in a particular country. It is where the leaders of the country work and make decisions. Know that the government of each country is based in its capital city.  <u>Location of London</u> Locate the capital cities of the UK using an atlas to help: London, Belfast, Edinburgh, Cardiff. Identify land and water on a globe, using a digital map (Google Earth) and on an outline map of the UK. Locate the four countries of the UK: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and its surrounding seas: The North Sea, The English Channel, The Irish Sea and The Atlantic Ocean.	Children encouraged to ask simple geographical questions; Where is it? What's it like? <u>Mapping</u> Observe and collect information and data from fieldwork, photos and aerial images, diagrams, globes, atlases and simple maps and charts. 

Key Activity

To locate London on a map and describe its location

Link to location of Reading

Hexagons Connections activity. Connect the hexagons by placing side by side to show how London and Reading are linked

Substantive & Procedural Knowledge Core Components	Disciplinary Knowledge/Skills
Know that Reading and London are both in the Southeast of England. You can get to London from Reading easily by train or car. Know that London and Reading are connected by the River Thames and the M4 motorway. Know that a capital city is the most important city in a particular country. It is where the leaders of the country work and make decisions. Know that the government of each country is based in its capital city. <u>Location of London</u> Locate the capital cities of the UK using an atlas to help: London, Belfast, Edinburgh, Cardiff. Use directional language to describe the location of London, London is East of Reading, it is in the South East of England 	Children encouraged to ask simple geographical questions; Where is it? What's it like? <u>Mapping</u> Observe and collect information and data from fieldwork, photos and aerial images, diagrams, globes, atlases and simple maps and charts.  <u>Similarities and Differences</u> Make simple comparisons between features of different places Express their own views about the people, places and environments studied. Use NF books, stories, maps, pictures/photos and internet as sources of information. 

Key Activity

To identify and describe London landmarks

Look at pictures of London features. (PlanBee Slide 2, ppt of landmarks)

Been / seen before?

What do you know about it?

Purpose? Why important?

Work: Hold up a landmark. Chn offer clues as to what it is / describe it

Substantive & Procedural Knowledge Core Components	Disciplinary Knowledge/Skills
Know and identify modern landmarks in London and understand their functions: Big Ben (The bell in the clock tower above the Houses of Parliament) Houses of Parliament (a meeting place for people in power where many important decisions are made) Tower Bridge (a bridge that spans the River Thames)	Children encouraged to ask simple geographical questions; Where is it? What's it like? <u>Similarities and Differences</u> Make simple comparisons between features of different places

St Paul's Cathedral (an important large church in London) Buckingham Palace (the London home of the King and monarchy). Know that the River Thames is the 2nd largest river in the UK <u>Physical and Human Features of London</u> Understand that the London landmarks are human features of London as they were made by people. Know that the River Thames is a physical feature of London, as it has not been made by people	Express their own views about the people, places and environments studied. Use NF books, stories, maps, pictures/photos and internet as sources of information. 
<u>Key Activity</u> To learn about compass points To use compass points and positional language to navigate between London landmarks Use Plan Bee slide 3 How will I get from The Shard to Kensington Palace? T record directions Using a simplified map children answer true or false questions	
Substantive & Procedural Knowledge Core Components	Disciplinary Knowledge/Skills
Know the 4 main points of a compass Know that Reading and London are both in the Southeast of England. Know and identify modern landmarks in London and understand their functions: <u>Location of London</u> Use directional language to describe the location of London, London is East of Reading, it is in the South East of England <u>Physical and Human Features of London</u> Understand that we can use aerial photographs and maps to identify human and physical features of London	Children encouraged to ask simple geographical questions; Where is it? What's it like? <u>Mapping</u> Observe and collect information and data from fieldwork, photos and aerial images, diagrams, globes, atlases and simple maps and charts.  <u>Similarities and Differences</u> Use NF books, stories, maps, pictures/photos and internet as sources of information. 

Key Activity

To identify and describe geographical features in London

Recap / learn about physical and human geo features (ppt)

PlanBee Slide 4

Look at pictures of parts of London. Identify and label the physical and physical geographical features

Substantive & Procedural Knowledge Core Components	Disciplinary Knowledge/Skills
<u>Physical and Human Features of London</u> Understand that the London landmarks are human features of London as they were made by people. Know that the River Thames is a physical feature of London, as it has not been made by people Understand that we can use aerial photographs and maps to identify human and physical features of London	Children encouraged to ask simple geographical questions; Where is it? What's it like? <u>Mapping</u> Observe and collect information and data from fieldwork, photos and aerial images, diagrams, globes, atlases and simple maps and charts.  <u>Similarities and Differences</u> Make simple comparisons between features of different places Express their own views about the people, places and environments studied. Use NF books, stories, maps, pictures/photos and internet as sources of information. 

Key Activity

To explore seasonal weather patterns in London

PlanBee slide 5

What would you wear on your trip to London in spring, summer autumn or winter?

What would you take on your trip in spring, summer, autumn or winter?

Why take that?

Substantive & Procedural Knowledge Core Components	Disciplinary Knowledge/Skills
Know the four seasons Know what the normal weather is like in different seasons of the year. Know that a city is the largest type of settlement, containing lots of buildings and lots of people. They usually have hospitals, sport facilities, universities, shops, offices, many houses and a cathedral.	Children encouraged to ask simple geographical questions; Where is it? What's it like? <u>Mapping</u> Observe and collect information and data from fieldwork, photos and

Know and identify modern landmarks in London and understand their functions

aerial images, diagrams, globes, atlases and simple maps and charts.



Similarities and Differences

Make simple comparisons between features of different places

Express their own views about the people, places and environments studied.

Use NF books, stories, maps, pictures/photos and internet as sources of information.



Final Assessment Piece

Refer back to prior learning check and fill in blanks.

Address misconceptions

Answer Enquiry Question

PlanBee slide 6. Sheet 6 to record ideas.

Using what we have learnt, plan a trip to London

- how to get there
- where to go
- what is the best time of year to go, why?