

Geographical vocabulary

The following sets out key geographical vocabulary for this year group. It has been designed for schools which are following our Long-Term Planning Pathways. Terms therefore relate to the topics that are being studied as part of that pathway.

It draws on key vocabulary that has been set out in the Oddizzi knowledge organisers for each topic. This vocabulary consolidates and builds on that which has been established in previous years and topics.

Being able to understand, use and apply key vocabulary is an essential part of children's developing knowledge of geographical places and concepts. It is therefore important that the use of these words is contextualised in the places and topics that children are learning about, rather than simply learned as a word list¹. The Oddizzi schemes and associated activities will help you to do this.

The list of words is based around three essential elements of geographical vocabulary:

- place names (including familiar places);
- geographical terms and processes;
- locational terms.

We also offer a brief selected glossary for the year group.

For subject co-ordinators, we provide a complete vocabulary list that covers all year groups. Class teachers may also want to look at this, so as to have some idea of which terms their children ought already to be familiar with.

¹ See Ofsted Handbook, 2019. "Inspectors will be alert to unnecessary or excessive attempts to simply prompt pupils to learn glossaries or long lists of disconnected facts."

Progression in Vocabulary - Year 4

During Year 4, children should be able to appropriately use and apply the words they have learned during Years 1-3. Over the course of the year, they should become familiar with the following additional words, in the context of the places, topics and concepts being studied. (To be used in conjunction with the Oddizzi Pathways Document.) Topics covered: *Rivers, Rainforests, South America: The Amazon Basin*

Place names	Geographical terms and processes	Locational terms
Amazon Basin Amur River Congo Forest Congo River Democratic Republic of the Congo Ethiopia Indonesia Lake Tanganyika Ob-Irtysh River Paraná River River Niger River Nile River Thames South Sudan Sudan Uganda Yangtze River Yellow River Yenisei River	acid rain agriculture biodiversity biome canal canopy channel condensation confluence dam deforestation drainage drinking water ecosystem embankment emergent layer environment environmentalist erosion evaporation fertile flooding flood management flood plain flood prevention forest floor freshwater groundwater humidity hydro-electric power indigenous irrigation logging meander mouth pollution poverty river bank river basin source transportation tributary understory valley vegetation	altitude equatorial estuary International Date Line lower course middle course Prime Meridian upper course

	water cycle watershed	
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Glossary

agriculture: *farming*

biodiversity: *the number of different types of plants and animals found in a particular environment*

biome: *a community of plants and animals that is suited to a particular climate*

drainage: *how water flows away from an area through rivers and streams*

ecosystem: *a community of plants and animals that affect each other and the area around them*

equatorial: *the hot, wet climate in areas close to the Equator*

erosion: *how wind, water and waves break down and remove rock and soil*

flood management: *stopping or controlling floods*

flood prevention: *stopping floods*

irrigation: *the supply of water, especially for growing crops*

Prime Meridian: *the line of longitude from which time is measured*

rainforests: *forests that are home to many different types of plants and animals. They are located close to the Equator in places with a tropical climate, which is warm and wet all year round.*

river basin: *the area of land drained by a river and all its tributaries*