

# Year 6 – Summer 1 Knowledge organiser

## What should I already know?

- A growing understanding of physical and human features in the wider world.
- Ability to locate the world's countries in Europe, North and South America, concentrating on environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities.

## Key vocabulary

**Earthquake:** the sudden shaking of the ground caused by movement of the Earth's crust

**Fault line:** a long crack in the surface of the Earth – usually where earthquakes occur

**Magnitude:** the measure of the size of an earthquake

**Epicentre:** the place on the Earth's surface directly above where the earthquake starts (where it is felt the strongest)

**Volcano:** a mountain from which hot melted rock, gas, steam, and ash from inside the Earth sometimes burst

**Active:** a volcano that has erupted recently or is expected to erupt soon

**Dormant:** a volcano that has not erupted recently but is expected to do so again

**Desert:** a large area of land, usually in a hot region – but can be cold, where there is almost no water, rain, trees, or plants

**Climate:** the general weather in a particular region

**Tourism:** travelling for pleasure or business

**Latitude:** distance of a place north or south of the Earth's equator

**Longitude:** distance of a place east or west of the prime Greenwich meridian

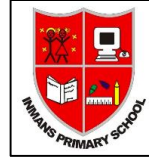
**Hemisphere:** half of Earth - either Northern or Southern

**Prairie:** an ecosystem with grasslands and shrub lands where, rather than trees, many types of grasses and shrubs grow well in the temperate climate

**Colony:** a group of people from one country who build a settlement in another territory, or land.

**Province:** a district, territory, or region.

**State:** a nation or territory considered as an organised political community under one government.



## Why are the Americas so diverse?

### National Curriculum objectives:

Pupils should be taught:

to locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on ...North and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities.

Identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, Tropics, time zones

Understand geographical similarities and differences through a study of human and physical geography of a region within North or South America

Describe and understand key aspects of physical geog. incl: climate zones, mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes

Describe and understand key aspects of human geog: settlement, land use, economic activity, trade links, natural resources incl. energy, food, minerals.

Use geographical skills and fieldwork.

### Knowledge:

- North America is one of the world's seven continents.
- North America consists of three large nations and one large island: Canada, the United States of America (USA), Mexico and Greenland.
- Central America is the thin section of land that links the North American continent with the South American continent. The largest country is Nicaragua.
- South America sits between the Caribbean, the South Pacific, and the South Atlantic Oceans. On this continent is the world's biggest rainforest and the largest river (Amazon). The largest country is Brazil.
- Eg. California is a state in the USA, situated in the west, on the Pacific coast. It is home to the global film industry (Hollywood) and both the personal computer (PC) and the internet have their origins here. Millions of tourists visit California each year. Due to its large size, California has a varied landscape including hot, arid desert, mountain ranges and agricultural land. The climate also varies according to the region. Recently, in November 2018, there were destructive and deadly wildfires in California.
- Eg. Hawaii is in the Pacific Ocean, 2,390 miles southwest of California. It is the only state not located on the continent of North America and the only state made up entirely of islands. The islands are the exposed peaks of a great undersea mountain range created by volcanic activity. There are five active volcanoes in Hawaii; others are dormant. Kilauea is an active volcano - it has been continuously erupting since 1983.
- San Francisco is a city in California. San Francisco lies on the San Andreas fault line. In 1906, San Francisco suffered a devastating earthquake, when around 3000 people died, and in 1989 there was an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.9 and over 60 people were killed.

### Geographical skills and enquiry:

- Begin to suggest questions for investigation
- Use a variety of primary and secondary sources of evidence.
- Collect evidence unaided and consider larger scales of places/contrast with distant places.
- Analyse evidence and draw conclusions
- Use atlases (incl. index and contents), OS maps, online maps, maps with different scales
- Find and recognise places on maps with different scales e.g. physical landmarks
- Use 8 compass points/4 figure coordinates to locate features on a map.



- USA divided into states.
- Canada divided into provinces
- USA has 50 states
- There are 10 provinces in Canada.
- About 38 times larger than the UK.



- Part of the North America continent.
- Weather - Tropical, wet summers and dry winters – the same in the Caribbean.
- Mayans came from Mexico.
- Panama canal makes trade easier.







South America

- It is the fourth largest continent.
- Higher areas (mountainous) do get cold and drop below freezing.
- Landmarks: Amazon rainforest, Atacama desert, Amazon river, Andes mountains



### Key Landmarks of North America and South America

|                     |   |   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Niagara Falls       |    | three waterfalls that straddle the international border between Canada and the United States.                     |
| Grand Canyon        |   | steep-sided canyon carved by the Colorado River in the U.S. state of Arizona in North America.                    |
| The Great Salt Lake |  | located in the northern part of the U.S. state of Utah, is the largest salt water lake in the Western Hemisphere. |
| Macchu Pichu        |  | an Incan citadel set high in the Andes Mountains in Peru, above the Urubamba River valley.                        |



### USA fact file

Capital city – Washington DC

Population – 326 million

Language – English

Currency – US Dollar



|   |                |              |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| The Egyptians were considered influential to modern society. They contributed ideas about....(tick all that are true) | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| Written language  |                |              |
| Measurements  |                |              |
| Time and the calendar   |                |              |

|   |                |              |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| The process of mummification was used so help preserve the bodies of pharaohs. This was so that they could make the journey to... | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| Egypt   |                |              |
| The Nile  |                |              |
| The afterlife   |                |              |
| Pyramids  |                |              |

|  |                |              |
|--|----------------|--------------|
| The Nile was important because...(tick all that are true). | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| It provided settlers with fertile land to grow crops       |                |              |
| The banks grew papyrus reeds which they used to write on   |                |              |
| It provided opportunities for fishing                      |                |              |

|                |                |              |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Circa means... | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| Century        |                |              |
| Pyramid        |                |              |
| Around         |                |              |
| Circle         |                |              |

|   |                |              |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| The Egyptians built the pyramids around the same time as: | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| The Stone Age in Britain                                  |                |              |
| The Romans came to Britain                                |                |              |
| The Vikings came to Britain                               |                |              |
| William the Conqueror wins the Battle of Hastings         |                |              |

|                                       |              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Name an ancient Egyptian achievement. |              |
| Start of unit:                        | End of unit: |
|                                       |              |

|  |                |              |
|--|----------------|--------------|
| The discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb was important because...               | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| The artefacts he was buried with told us a lot about life in Ancient Egypt |                |              |
| Howard Carter found him  |                |              |
| We know who killed him   |                |              |

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| The Ancient Egyptians were among the first civilisations to use an irrigation system. Irrigation means: |              |
| Start of unit:  | End of unit: |
|   |              |