

GEOGRAPHY SPRING 1 KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS



Year 5 Spring 1
Egypt – the desert and the Nile



Did You Know?

- The **Nile River** is over **4,100 miles (6,600 km)** long.
- **Ancient Egyptians** called the Nile *“the gift of the river.”*
- Some deserts, like the **Atacama**, can go **years without rain**.
- The **Sahara Desert** is roughly the size of the **United States!**



Word	Meaning
Arid	Very dry with little rain.
Precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet, or hail.
Evaporation	Water turning into vapour.
Adaptation	How plants and animals survive in their environment.
Erosion	Wearing away of rock by wind or water.
Irrigation	Watering land for farming.
Delta	Land formed where a river meets the sea.
Civilisation	A group of people living together with culture and government.
Prosperity	Success or wealth.
Legacy	Something lasting left behind.



Locational Knowledge

- The **Sahara Desert** is in **North Africa** – it’s the **largest hot desert** on Earth.
- The **Gobi Desert** is in **Asia** – it’s a **cold desert**.
- The **River Nile** flows **north** from central Africa to the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- **Cairo** and **Alexandria** are two major cities near the Nile.



Weather and Climate in Deserts

- **Very hot days, cold nights**, and **little rainfall**.
- **Evaporation** happens quickly – water dries up fast.
- Desert plants store water (e.g. cacti).
- Animals like camels and fennec foxes are adapted to cope with heat and lack of water.
- **Climate graphs** show how much rain and how hot deserts are throughout the year.
-  **Desert Landforms**
 - **Sand Dunes** – hills of sand shaped by the wind.
 - **Mesas** – flat-topped hills with steep sides.
 - **Rock Pedestals** – mushroom-shaped rocks formed by wind erosion.
 - Wind and water **erode** rocks to create these amazing shapes.



The Nile River – Egypt’s Lifeline

- The **River Nile** is the **longest river in the world**.
- It flows through **11 countries**, including **Sudan** and **Egypt**, and empties into the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- Each year, the Nile’s floods made the soil **fertile**, perfect for growing crops.
- It provided **water, food, transport**, and **trade routes** for the **Ancient Egyptians**.
- The **Aswan Dam** now controls flooding and makes electricity, but it also traps silt and changes habitats.

Year 6 Spring 1

Extremem Earth



Writing Like a Geographer

Use this writing approach in diary work and explanations:

P – Point: Make a clear statement.

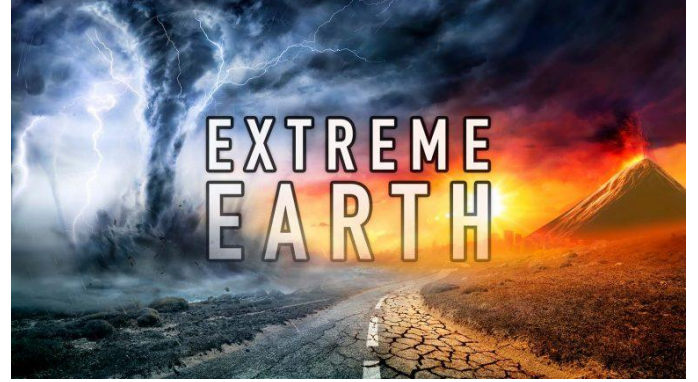
E – Evidence: Use an example from Pompeii or volcanology.

E – Explain: Say why this happened or why it was important.

L – Link: Connect back to the question.

Example:

“Pompeii was destroyed quickly because pyroclastic flows travelled extremely fast. As a result, people had no time to escape the intense heat.”



Word	Meaning
Volcano	A mountain that can erupt with lava, ash and gas.
Magma	Molten (melted) rock underground.
Lava	Molten rock on the Earth's surface.
Eruption	An explosion releasing lava, gas and ash.
Tectonic Plate	A large slab of the Earth's crust that moves.
Plate Boundary	A place where two tectonic plates meet.
Pyroclastic Flow	A fast, deadly cloud of hot gas, ash and rock.
Ash Cloud	A large cloud of ash thrown out during an eruption.
Tremor	A small earthquake felt before an eruption.
Destruction	Severe damage caused by volcanic hazards.

Locational Knowledge

- Pompeii was a Roman city located near **Mount Vesuvius** in Italy.
- Italy lies on the boundary of the **Eurasian** and **African** tectonic plates.
- Many volcanoes are found in the **Ring of Fire** around the Pacific Ocean.
- Pompeii's location made it vulnerable to eruptions but ideal for farming.
- Vesuvius' eruption covered the city so quickly that many people could not escape.

Map & Diagram Skills

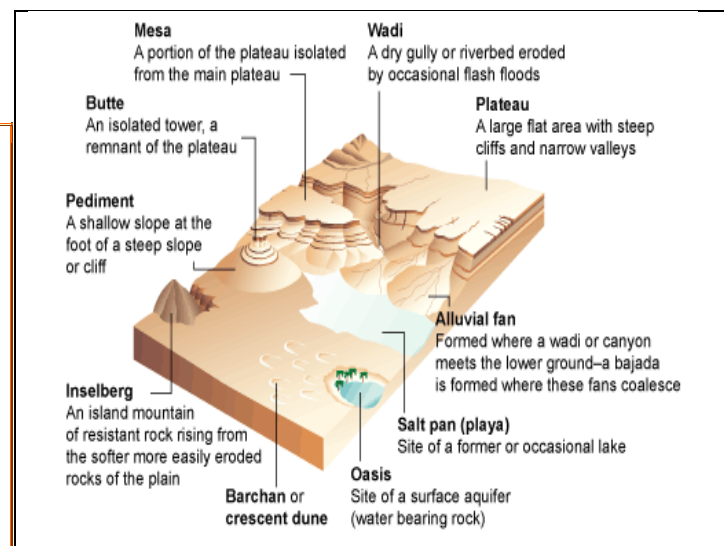
- Label the **structure of a volcano**: magma chamber, vent, crater, lava flow.
- Use world maps to locate **Italy**, **Pompeii**, and global **plate boundaries**.
- Identify where volcanoes appear and explain why they cluster near boundaries.
- Sequence diagrams showing the stages of the **AD 79 eruption**.
- Interpret archaeological images to understand **Roman life** before the disaster.

Life & Evidence

- Pompeii had a **forum**, **amphitheatre**, bathhouses, shops and busy streets.
- Romans ignored **tremors**, believing they were common and harmless.
- The eruption preserved buildings, jewellery, food, and people's final moments.
- Pyroclastic flows** caused most deaths due to intense heat and suffocation.
- The site gives historians a rare, detailed view of **daily life in AD 79**.

Year 7 Spring 1

Africa and deserts



Writing Like a Geographer (PEEL)

- **P – Point:** Make a clear statement.
- **E – Evidence:** Give a real example (from map, photo, or video).
- **E – Explain:** Show cause and effect using connectives (*because, therefore, as a result*).
- **L – Link:** Connect back to the question or to the next idea.

Word	Meaning
Biome	A large ecosystem such as rainforest, savannah, or desert
Climate	The long-term weather pattern of a place.
Adaptation	A feature that helps animals or people survive in their environment.
Desertification	Land turning into desert due to drought, climate change or human actions.
Oasis	A place in the desert where water reaches the surface.
Erosion	The wearing away of rock by wind or water.
Urban	A city area.
Rural	Countryside area.
Development	How a place improves in jobs, services, housing and wealth.
Migration	Movement of people from one place to another.

Locational Knowledge – Africa & Deserts

- Africa is the **second-largest continent**, containing **54 countries** and stretching across the **Equator, Tropic of Cancer, and Tropic of Capricorn**.
- It contains **a wide range of biomes** including Sahara Desert, tropical rainforests (Congo Basin), savannah (Serengeti), and Mediterranean coasts (North Africa).
- The **Sahara Desert** covers **11 countries** and is the largest hot desert on Earth.
- Major physical features include the **Nile River, Atlas Mountains, Sahara Desert, Congo Rainforest, and East African Rift Valley**.
- Human features include major cities such as **Cairo, Lagos, Johannesburg, Nairobi**, and large cultural regions with **2,000+ languages**.
- The **Sahel** is a semi-arid region south of the Sahara where desertification is a major issue.

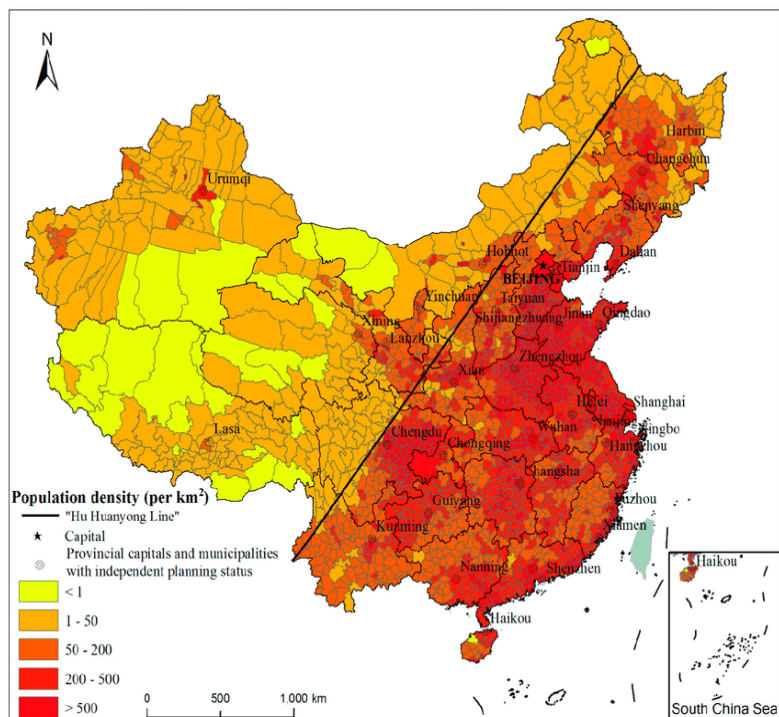
Geographical Skills – Africa & Deserts

- Use maps, atlases and satellite images to locate **countries, biomes, climate zones, and desert features**.
- Interpret **climate graphs** (e.g., Sahara vs Kenya) to compare temperature and rainfall.
- Identify **desert landforms** such as mesas, wadis, sand dunes, oases, plateau and inselbergs.
- Use geographical vocabulary to explain **adaptations, climate variation, misconceptions, and desertification processes**.
- Apply **PEEL writing** to explain how climates shape biomes, how animals survive in deserts, why misconceptions about Africa are incorrect, or why desertification is happening.

Fieldwork & Enquiry Skills – Africa & Deserts

- Analyse photographs and diagrams to identify **desert landforms, climate features, and human activity** (e.g., nomadic herding, oasis settlements).
- Use climate data to compare places across Africa and explain **patterns**.
- Investigate how **physical environments** (heat, rainfall, soil, vegetation) shape where people live.
- Evaluate human responses to environmental challenges such as **desertification, urban growth, and adaptations in the Sahara**.
- Reflect on: *How do Africa's climates and biomes influence life, culture and development across the continent?*

China – economic growth and population



Did You Know?

- China has the world's largest population—about **1.4 billion people**.
- The **Yangtze River** is Asia's longest river (6,300 km).
- Shenzhen** grew from a fishing village in 1980 to a megacity of 17+ million today.
- China has **34 provinces/regions**—but development is *very* uneven.
- The **One-Child Policy** lasted from 1979–2015 and changed China's population structure.



Word	Student-Friendly Meaning
Population	Number of people living in a place.
Distribution	Where people live and how they are spread out.
Migration	People moving from one place to another.
Urbanisation	More people living in towns and cities.
Region	A large area with similar features (e.g. East Asia).
Plateau	High, flat area of land.
River Basin	Land drained by a river.
Economy	How a country earns money (industry, farming, services).
Development	How far a place has improved people's lives.
GDP	Value of everything a country produces in a year.
HDI	A measure combining health, education & income.
Infrastructure	Services a country needs: roads, hospitals, transport, electricity.

Locational & Background Knowledge

Population Patterns

- Most people live in the **east** because of:
 - flat land
 - good farmland
 - water sources
 - transport & jobs
- One-Child Policy** caused: fewer young people, ageing population, fewer workers.

China's Economic Change

- 1980: mostly **farming**; few cities.
- Today: world's 2nd largest economy; factories, technology, global trade.
- Massive **urbanisation**—cities like Shenzhen grew extremely quickly.
- Growth created **wealth**, but also **pollution**, **inequality**, and **resource pressures**.

Geographical Skills & Enquiry

- Use **maps** to identify physical features, cities, and population density.
- Interpret **population pyramids**, **density maps**, and **development data**.
- Explain changes over time using **cause and consequence**.
- Use **PEEL paragraphs** to structure extended writing.
- Compare regions using indicators like **GDP**, **HDI**, **life expectancy**, and **infrastructure**.

Fieldwork & Enquiry Skills

- Use satellite images to describe land use and urban growth.
- Create annotated maps of population distribution.
- Rank development indicators and justify choices.
- Evaluate how geography affects people's lives in different regions.
- Reflect: *How does China's geography shape development and population patterns?*