



Knowledge and Skills Mind Map (Geography)

Year 4 Autumn Term (page 1 of 2)

Knowledge : 

Disciplinary Concept: 

4. Can I compare the human and physical characteristics of Italy and the UK?

- **Prior Learning:** human feature (lesson 2) and physical features (lesson 3) of Italy; (Year 3—Autumn) human/physical features (land use) of UK . **Year 3 Spring:** Climate Zones
- **Vocab:** compare, human/physical geography
- Know that both countries are part of Europe.

Climate (Physical)

- **Italy:** Italy has a mostly Mediterranean climate with hot, dry summers and mild winters.
- **UK:** The United Kingdom has a temperate climate with cooler summers, mild winters, and rain throughout the year.

Land and Landscapes (Physical)

- **Italy:** Italy has high mountains (the Alps), volcanoes, long coastlines, and large islands like Sicily.
- **UK:** The United Kingdom has low mountains and hills, rivers, valleys, and a long coastline but no active volcanoes.

Settlements and Cities (Human)

- **Italy:** Italian cities are often very old, with historic buildings such as the Colosseum and hilltop towns.
- **UK:** UK cities also have historic areas but include many modern buildings and large urban centres like London and Manchester.

Land Use and Farming (Human & Physical)

- **Italy:** Italy grows crops such as grapes, olives, and wheat because of its warm climate and fertile land.
- **UK:** The United Kingdom focuses more on livestock farming and crops like barley and potatoes due to its cooler, wetter climate.
- **Human & Physical Geog/Place Knowledge:** Know and compare the human features of Italy and the UK; Give reasons why they may differ.

- Italy
- Volcanoes
- Earthquakes

3. Can I identify the physical characteristics of Italy?

- **Prior Learning:** human characteristics of Italy (cities/towns, historic buildings, roads/transport, tourism, culture (e.g. restaurants)
- **Vocab:** Italy, Europe, Physical Geography

Recognise Physical features of Italy:

- **Mountains** – The Alps run across northern Italy, and the Apennine Mountains stretch down the centre of the country.
- **Volcanoes** – Mount Etna, Mount Vesuvius, and Stromboli are active volcanoes.
- **Rivers** – The River Po is the longest river in Italy and is important for farming and water supply.
- **Lakes** – Lakes such as Lake Garda, Lake Como, and Lake Maggiore are large freshwater lakes.
- **Coastline and seas** – Italy has a long coastline along the Mediterranean Sea, including beaches and cliffs.
- **Islands** – Sicily and Sardinia are Italy's largest islands.
- **Hills and valleys** – Many parts of Italy have rolling hills and fertile valleys used for farming.
- **Plains** – The Po Valley is a flat, fertile area good for growing crops.
- **Climate** – Italy has a mainly Mediterranean climate with hot summers and mild, wet winters.
- **Natural landscapes** – Forests, rocky mountains, grassy plains, and coastal areas make up Italy's natural scenery.
- **Human and Physical Geography:** Identify physical characteristics of Italy

1. Can I locate Italy on a map and identify key information about the country?

- **Prior Learning (Year 3):** located countries of Europe
- **Vocab:** Italy, Rome, flag, population,
- Recap (from Yr 3) the names of countries in Europe and their location
- Know that we can use maps, an atlas, digital maps (e.g. Google Maps) or a globe to locate countries
- Know where Italy is located in Europe (and label)
- Know the key facts about Italy: capital city, population and flag, population, location
- **Locational/Place Knowledge/Geographical Skills and fieldwork:** Locate Italy on a map; Identify key features of a European country

2. Can I identify the human characteristics of Italy?

- **Prior Learning:** located Italy on a map and key information (capital city, flag, population)
- **Vocab:** Italy, Europe, human geography, landmarks,
- Recognise Italian landmarks and human features:
 - **Cities and towns** – Rome, Milan, Venice, Florence, and Naples are large, important cities where people live and work.
 - **Historic buildings** – The Colosseum, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and ancient Roman ruins show Italy's long history.
 - **Roads and transport** – Motorways, railways, high-speed trains, airports, and canals (such as in Venice) help people travel.
 - **Farming and agriculture** – Vineyards (grapes), olive groves, wheat fields, and orchards
 - **Tourism** – Hotels, museums, cafés, beaches, and sightseeing attractions support visitors
 - **Landmarks and religious buildings** – Churches, cathedrals, and Vatican City
 - **Factories and industries** – Car manufacturing (such as Ferrari and Fiat), fashion, and food production create jobs.
 - **Ports and harbours** – Coastal ports allow trade and travel by sea across the Mediterranean Sea.
 - **Food and culture** – markets and restaurants are part of everyday Italian life (serving pizza, pasta, gelato)
 - **Homes and settlements** – Apartments, houses with balconies, and hilltop villages show how people adapt to the land.
- **Human and Physical Geography:** Identify human characteristics of Italy



Knowledge and Skills Mind Map (Geography)

Year 4 Autumn Term (page 2 of 2)

Knowledge : 

Disciplinary Concept: 

8. Can I explain how earthquakes are formed and understand their impact?

- Know that earthquakes happen because of movement inside the Earth. The Earth's surface is made up of large pieces called tectonic plates. These plates move very slowly on top of hot, melted rock inside the Earth. Sometimes the plates stick together and pressure builds up.
- When the pressure becomes too strong, the plates suddenly slip or move. This movement releases energy as vibrations (seismic waves). The vibrations cause the ground to shake, creating an earthquake. The earthquake starts deep underground at the focus, and the strongest shaking is felt at the epicentre on the surface. Earthquakes can have serious effects on people and places.

Impact

- Buildings and roads can collapse, causing damage.
- People can be injured or killed if shaking is strong.
- Homes destroyed, leaving people without shelter.
- Power, water, and transport can be disrupted.
- Aftershocks can cause further damage after the main earthquake.
- **Human and Physical Geography:** Explain how earthquakes are formed and understand their impact

- Italy
- Volcanoes
- Earthquakes

7. Can I understand vocabulary linked to Earthquakes?

- **Earthquake** – A sudden shaking of the Earth's surface.
- **Tectonic plates** – Large pieces of the Earth's crust that move very slowly.
- **Earth's crust** – The outer layer of the Earth where we live.
- **Fault** – A crack in the Earth's crust where movement happens.
- **Plate boundary** – The place where two tectonic plates meet.
- **Vibrations (or seismic waves)** – The shaking that moves through the ground during an earthquake.
- **Epicentre** – The place on the Earth's surface where the shaking is strongest.
- **Focus (or hypocentre)** – The point deep underground where the earthquake starts.
- **Magnitude** – How strong an earthquake is.
- **Aftershock** – Smaller earthquakes that happen after the main one.
- **Damage** – Harm caused to buildings, roads, or land by shaking.
- **Natural disaster** – A natural event that causes serious damage or danger to people.
- **Human and Physical Geography:** understand vocabulary linked to earthquakes

5. Can I understand vocabulary linked to Volcanoes?

- **Volcano** – An opening in the Earth where hot melted rock, gas, and ash escape.
- **Magma** – Hot, melted rock below the Earth's surface.
- **Lava** – Magma that has reached the surface of the Earth.
- **Eruption** – When lava, ash, and gases come out of a volcano.
- **Crater** – The bowl-shaped opening at the top of a volcano.
- **Vent** – A crack or opening that allows magma and gases to escape.
- **Ash cloud** – A cloud of fine ash pushed into the air during an eruption.
- **Lava flow** – Hot lava that moves down the sides of a volcano.
- **Active volcano** – A volcano that is erupting or may erupt again.
- **Dormant volcano** – A volcano that has not erupted for a long time but could erupt in the future.
- **Extinct volcano** – A volcano that is not expected to erupt again.
- **Cone** – The steep sides of the volcano built up from lava and ash layers.
- **Earth's crust** – The outer layer of the Earth where volcanoes form.
- **Human and Physical Geography:** Understand vocabulary linked to volcanoes
(note to teachers: suggested task—match definitions with key word)

6. Can I explain how volcanoes are formed, and their impact?

- **Prior Learning (last lesson):** vocabulary linked to volcanoes
- **Vocab:** magma, Earth's crust, vent, lava, cone, geothermal energy
- Know that volcanoes are formed when hot melted rock from inside the Earth escapes to the surface.
- Deep inside the Earth, rock melts and becomes magma. The magma rises through cracks in the Earth's crust because it is lighter than solid rock. Pressure builds up beneath the surface. When the pressure becomes too strong, magma bursts out through an opening called a vent. When magma reaches the surface, it is called lava. Over time, layers of lava and ash build up to form a volcano cone. Volcanoes can have both positive and negative impacts on people and the environment.

Negative impacts of volcanoes

- Damage to homes and buildings from lava and ash.
- Danger to people's lives during eruptions.
- Ash clouds can block sunlight and affect breathing.
- Transport disruption, such as flights being cancelled.
- Land and crops destroyed, making farming difficult.

Positive impacts of volcanoes

- Fertile soil left by volcanic ash, which is good for farming.
- Tourism, as people visit famous volcanoes like Mount Etna.
- Energy – heat from volcanoes can be used as geothermal energy.
- New land can be created when lava cools and hardens.
- **Human and Physical Geography:** how volcanoes are formed and their impact