

Geography Subject Knowledge Organiser **Autumn Term**

Year 6

Earthquakes and Volcanoes

What prior knowledge should students have?

- Pupils will have locational knowledge of the seven continents and where to locate several of the countries where seismic activity occurs.
- Pupils will be familiar with interpreting data in order to support their learning.
- Pupils will have the literacy skills to present their research and findings clearly.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Tectonic Plates	A tectonic plate is a massive, irregularly shaped slab of solid rock found under the surface of the earth.
Plate Boundaries	The point where two or more plates meet is a plate boundary.
Divergent, Convergent, Transform	The type of plate boundary. Divergent – when two lates move away from each other. Convergent – when two plates come together. Transform – when two plates slide past each other.
Active Volcano	An active volcano is a volcano which is either erupting or is likely to erupt in the future.
Dormant Volcano	Dormant volcanoes are volcanoes that have not erupted in a long time but are expected to erupt again in the future.
Extinct Volcano	An extinct volcano is a volcano that has not generally erupted in the last 10,000 years and that is not expected to erupt again in the foreseeable future.
Seismic Activity	The vibration of the ground due to the release of elastic energy from the breakage of rock within the earth or an explosion.

What skills will students learn? (Disciplinary Knowledge)

- Pupils will use atlases, maps and digital maps to locate countries, tectonic plates and areas of high seismic activity.
- Pupils will interpret data to make a reasoned geographical judgement using evidence and logical argument as to whether earthquakes are more dangerous than volcanoes.
- Pupils will complete a case study of a chosen volcano and will make decisions on how to present their findings.

What key knowledge will be taught? (Substantive Knowledge)

- Pupils will learn about how and why volcanoes and earthquakes occur.
- Pupils will learn the different layers of the earth (crust, mantel, outer core and inner core)
- Pupils will learn about the location of tectonic plates and the impact of living near a plate boundary.
- Pupils will learn about how countries/humans prepare for seismic activity.
- Pupils will learn about the strength of volcanic eruptions and the impact they have on humans.
- Pupils will learn about the key physical geography of volcanoes and earthquakes.

