

Y3 Autumn: Land Use

Enquiry: How do people use the land around us?

Rationale	This first KS2 geography unit builds secure foundations for later regional studies, fieldwork and map work. Pupils begin with their own place, locating St Albans within Hertfordshire, England, the United Kingdom and Europe. They then learn that people use land for different purposes and that these uses can change over time. Pupils interpret photographs, aerial and satellite images, maps and keys, including the important distinction between land use and land cover. The unit ends with a simple planning challenge in which pupils apply their geographical understanding to balance homes, services, transport, green space and habitats.			
Lessons	1. Where in the world is St Albans?	2. What is land used for in the UK?	3. How can maps and photographs show how land is used?	4. How would you design a place for people to live?
Key vocab	continent • country • county • human feature • physical feature	land use • agriculture • population • services • recreation	aerial photograph • satellite image • Ordnance Survey map • land-use and land-cover map • historic map • map key	habitat • location • plan • community • environment
Key concepts	<p>Place and scale: Places sit within larger places: St Albans - Hertfordshire - England - UK - Europe - world.</p> <p>Land use and change: People use land for different purposes. As places and populations change, the way land is used can change too.</p> <p>Geographical representation: Maps, photographs and images show different information. Geographers choose useful sources, interpret keys and patterns and use evidence to make decisions about places.</p>			

Core knowledge		Hinterland knowledge
Lesson 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The United Kingdom is in Europe and is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. St Albans is a city in Hertfordshire, a county in England. We can locate St Albans at different scales: world - Europe - UK - England - Hertfordshire - St Albans. Physical features occur naturally; human features are made or changed by people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The seven continents and five oceans are useful reference points when locating the UK. Great Britain is England, Scotland and Wales; the United Kingdom also includes Northern Ireland. Rivers, hills and woodland are examples of physical features; roads, bridges and housing are examples of human features.
Lesson 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use means the purpose of an area of land - what people use it for. Common land uses include farming, homes, transport, services and recreation. Agriculture includes growing crops (arable farming) and rearing animals (livestock farming). Land use can change over time as places change and people need homes, roads, schools, shops and other services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services are places that help a community, such as schools, hospitals, shops and libraries. Population means the number of people who live in a place. Historic and recent aerial photographs can show changes such as more housing and roads and less open farmland. Population growth is one reason land use may change, but it is not the only reason.
Lesson 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geographers use different ways of showing places because different sources answer different questions. Street photographs, aerial photographs and satellite images are geographical images; Ordnance Survey, land-use/land-cover and historic maps are maps. A map key explains what colours and symbols on a map mean. Land use is what people use land for; land cover is what is physically on the ground. The same place can have both a use and a cover: a field may be used for farming and covered by crops or grass. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerial photographs show local detail from above; satellite images can show broader patterns from space. Ordnance Survey maps use symbols and colours to represent features such as roads, paths and buildings. Historic maps help geographers investigate how a place has changed over time. A land-use and land-cover map is a thematic map designed to show a particular pattern or theme.
Lesson 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town planners help decide how land in towns is used. A community needs a sensible balance of homes, shared services, transport links and green or environmental space. Balance does not mean equal amounts: many homes can share a smaller number of shops, schools, parks and health services. Location matters: important places need to be accessible and roads and bridges help connect different parts of a settlement. Planners should consider existing physical features and protect some habitats and green space. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A habitat is the place where a plant or animal lives. Rivers can act as physical constraints, so crossings such as bridges affect how places connect. Farmland is usually more useful as a connected area than as isolated single patches. There is not one perfect town plan: geographers can justify different choices if they meet community needs and make sensible use of the land.