

Ravens Wood School

KS4 Curriculum Plan

Subject: Geography Cold Environments - Svalbard

Overarching Topic:			
Why is this topic being studied at this time?	Investigating an environment that is unfamiliar allows students to further research and understand how different elements of geography interact. It enables students to understand how a harsh physical environment, although rich in natural resources, determines social, political and economic interactions and dependencies.		
How does it fit into the wider subject curriculum?	This topic encourages students to think about key synoptic links between both human and physical areas of geography and shows how many factors are interdependent. It allows students to contemplate the future of this area and the wider Arctic due to political and economic changes. This deep dive on an individual area shows students how Geography covers a wide range of issues		
	Essential	Core	Ambitious
The Big Questions (What questions will students be able to answer upon mastery of the topic?)	To know which countries are part of the Arctic Why humans find it difficult to live there Which animals live in the Arctic? How have humans used the area?	Which countries have claims to the Arctic region? How can humans survive in this extreme environment? How have animals adapted to live in a cold environment? What impact has human activity had on this area and how has it resulted in conflict?	How and why have territorial claims over the Arctic changed over time? How will climate change impact animals and humans ability to survive in this area? What might solutions to the conflicts in this area be?
The Key Skills/ Techniques	The sophistication and application of skills will become more advanced as students' progress through the essential, core and ambitious knowledge		
	Skill/Technique	How will this skill be developed?	
	1. Graph skills	Looking at resource availability and tourism numbers over time, investigating trends and future expectations. Climate graphs – how does this area compare with other regions of the world	
	2. Map skills	Using maps, identify different claims to the Arctic region	
	3. Evaluation	Students will investigate and draw conclusions concerning current conflict and future outcomes in this contested region	

