

Subject	Year 8 Threshold Concepts	How to support students' learning
Geography	Spring Term 2026	
Exploring Global Regions	Lesson 1: How has world population changed? ✓ To describe how the world's population has changed ✓ To explain where the world's population lives ✓ To evaluate the positive and negative impacts of urbanisation ✓ To interpret population pyramids Lesson 2: How does the physical geography shape lives in Russia? ✓ To describe the location of Russia ✓ To investigate the climatic variations across Russia ✓ To explain the characteristics of Russian biomes ✓ To evaluate different opinions on development in the Russian Arctic Lesson 3: What is China's role in the global economy? ✓ To describe how China has become one of the world's most powerful countries	• Follow the world's population on World Population Clock: 7.9 Billion People (2022) - Worldometer (worldometers.info) Discuss patterns and trends in population change from around the world. • Watch this episode of Severn World's One Planet; Asia on BBC iPlayer BBC iPlayer - Seven Worlds, One Planet - Series 1: 2. Asia • Ask your child to use the website Population of Japan 2050 - PopulationPyramid.net to see how Japan's population has changed from 1950-2022. What has happened to the amount of elderly people in Japan? • Next time you visit an urban area (town/city), ask your child why people would want to live in a town or city. Can they think of any problems of living in an urban environment as well? • It is very important to know about Russia. This unit mainly focusses on the Physical Geography of Russia, however discussing Russia in the news, and letting your child read articles on websites like the BBC about Russia is recommended: Russia - BBC News • Ask your child to read these headlines from news articles about China Heading (rgs.org). Can they find out more about a headline that interests them?

	✓ To explain why China's economy has grown ✓ To assess the strengths and weaknesses of China's economic growth Lesson 4: What shapes lives in the Middle East: Climate, Culture or Conflict? ✓ To describe the physical features of the Middle East ✓ To explain reasons for the pattern of population in the Middle East ✓ To evaluate the causes of conflict in the Middle East Lesson 5: How sustainable is Dubai? ✓ To describe the location of Dubai ✓ To evaluate the sustainability of Dubai ✓ To apply the principles of sustainability to design a more sustainable Dubai Lesson 6: Who is the most powerful country in the world? ✓ To define the term superpower ✓ To name the emerging superpowers ✓ To evaluate the extent to which Asian countries could become the next global superpowers	• Find out why China is so important China as a regional and world power - China's international influence - Higher Modern Studies Revision - BBC Bitesize • Explore the Middle East using Google Earth • Complete the Middle East quiz (geoguessr.com) • Watch Alastair Humphreys and Leon McCarron's expedition through The Empty Quarter desert https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5zzrx2RtWU • Use Dubai Map United Arab Emirates Google Satellite Maps (maplandia.com) to find out where Dubai is. • Watch the video about how Dubai built its islands How Dubai Builds its Islands - YouTube • Read the article about how Dubai's island resorts are reshaping geography Arab island resorts are reshaping geography (nbcnews.com) • Explore what we mean by "superpowers" in Geography using this video.
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