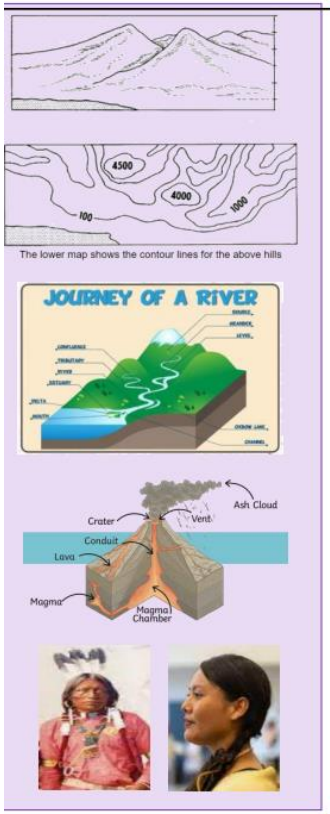
America an in-depth study

Year 5 and 6

Summer term



Core Knowledge

The Americas are two **continents – North America and South America**. They cover a large part of the Earth. However, each place in these continents is different – some are hot, some are cold, and they have different kinds of plants and animals.

Topography is a big word that means the shape of the land. It includes natural things like mountains and rivers, and things people make like roads and cities. Imagine it like a map that shows how high or low different places are.

Physical geography is about studying natural things like mountains, rivers, and volcanoes on Earth. There's a special place called the Ring of Fire on the map, like a horseshoe, where lots of volcanoes can be found. Most volcanoes happen when big pieces of the Earth's crust move and bump into each other.

Rivers are like long streams of water that move across the land. They can go around things like hills and rocks. As rivers move, they can change the land and make valleys or canyons.

Human geography is about where people live and what they do with the land.

Vocabulary

Erosion When water, wind and other natural forces, cause rocks and earth to wear away	**Continent** A large landmass made up of many countries	**Topography** Topography is the study of the forms and features of land surfaces.
Physical Geography The study of the Earth's natural features, such as mountains, rivers, deserts or oceans.	**Human Geography** Focused on where people live, what they do and how they use the land	**Land-Use Patterns** When an area is used for a specific purpose (e.g. residential, agricultural, recreational)
Tectonic Plates Broken pieces of the Earth's crust.	**Natural Resources** Something that is found in nature and can be used by people	**Distribution** The way something is spread out or arranged over an area

Quiz

1. What does a topographical map show?
2. Describe the features of a volcano.
3. Explain how volcanoes are formed.
4. How might the weather change the physical geography of an area?