

Year 6 Knowledge Organiser—Life on Our Planet (Geography and Citizenship)

Section 1—Maps and Grid References

A map is a 2-dimensional drawing of an area. OS (Ordnance Survey) Maps use symbols to represent different features e.g churches, car parks and camp sites. For example...



Maps are divided into squares known as a grid. Using the grid and squares helps to narrow the area to search – making it easier to locate features on the map. On an OS map, each square represents 1 square km (1km²).

The vertical gridlines are called **eastings** and they increase as you move eastwards.

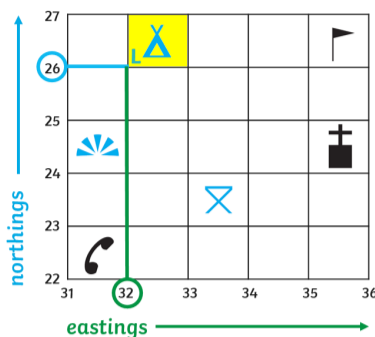
The horizontal gridlines are called **northings** and they increase as you move northwards.



The first two numbers give the eastings.

The second two numbers give the northings.

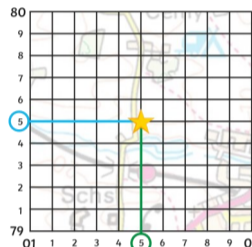
Using the 2 digits of the easting and the 2 digits of the northing creates a **4-figure grid reference**. This is the reference for the **bottom left corner** of a square on the map. It tells you which square the location is in.



Remember....

eastings then northings! Along the corridor and up the stairs!

We can use 6-figure grid references to find an exact location within a grid square, so they are much more accurate than 4-figure grid references. The grid squares are divided into tenths. **The first 3 numbers give the easting** which includes the number of tenths. **The last 3 numbers give the northing** which includes the number of tenths.



Section 3—Climate Change

Climate change describes a change in the average conditions—such as temperature and rainfall— from what we would expect in a region over a long period of time.

Weather describes the conditions outside right now in a specific place.

Climate is the average weather in a region over a longer period, typically 30 years.

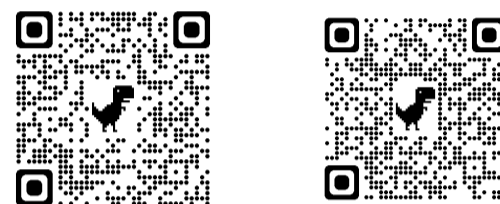
Scientists have found that Earth's average temperature is **warming** and has been increasing much more quickly than they would expect over the past 150 years, and this is a form of climate change. There are a lot of factors that can affect the Earth's climate but scientists agree that the **increased rate of climate change is due to human activity over the past few hundred years**.

What causes climate change?

- Burning fossil fuels (to power factories and transport)
- Farming (cows release methane gas)
- Deforestation (cutting down forests and rainforests)

A warmer climate could affect our planet in a number of ways:

- More rainfall
- Changing seasons
- Shrinking sea ice
- Rising sea levels



As these environments change so do the lives of people and other living things all around the planet putting animal habitats and people's homes under threat.

Carbon footprint—the amount of carbon dioxide released into the air because of your own energy needs (transport, electricity, clothes, food).

Section 2— Renewable and Non-renewable Resources

Resources are any materials or assets that humans can make use of

Natural resources are things we take from the earth that are used by us. They include plant and animal-based foods, energy sources, minerals, water and wood.

Resources can be either **renewable** or **non-renewable**.

Renewable resources mean that the resource is constantly replenished, whereas non-renewable sources are not.

All **non-renewable resources** are finite, meaning they will at some point in the future run out (*Inc. fossil fuels*).

Fossil Fuels = oil, coal and gas.

Burning fossil fuels creates **carbon dioxide** gas, which is damaging to the environment and is making the Earth warmer than it should be.

Renewable resources are much cleaner to use because they do not produce harmful gases that cause pollution and climate change.

Non-Renewable Resources	Renewable Resources
<p>examples</p> <p>coal, crude oil, natural gas and nuclear fuels</p> <p>Some produce carbon emissions.</p> <p>will run out</p>	<p>examples</p> <p>solar power, wind power, wave power, geothermal power and biofuels</p> <p>Most don't produce carbon emissions.</p> <p>will not run out</p>



Section 4—Facts and Opinions

The purpose of **Informative texts** is to provide information about a particular topic using facts.

A **fact** is something that is always true.

Facts **can be proven**. We can find facts by doing research.

An **opinion** is what you think or feel. It **can't be proven**.

When researching for facts, ask yourself two questions: Is it always true? Can it always be proven?

When choosing **reliable sources of information**, it can also help to consider where the research has come from. The information on websites produced by museums, well-known charities or institutions like the BBC or NHS are likely to be reliable.

It's important to remember that journalists choose the stories and information they think their audience most want or need to know about. Sometimes this means people only gain one viewpoint, read stories on similar topics or get similar information about a topic.



Section 5—Action on Climate Change

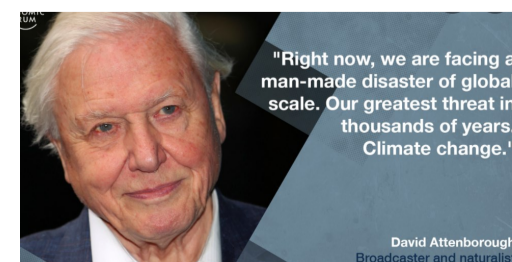
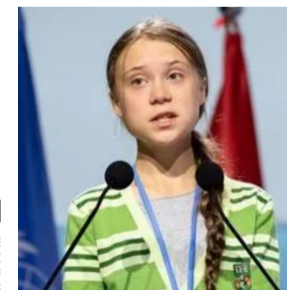
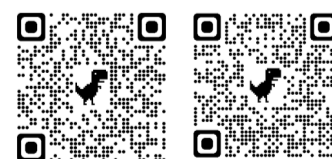
Great Thunberg is an environmental activist well-known for her climate campaigns. Greta started protesting for climate change when she was just 15. She wants people in power across the world to act with more urgency in tackling harmful emissions.

In 2019, she attended a UN climate conference delivering a speech to world leaders. She reduces her carbon footprint by stopping buying clothes and not flying (she finds other ways to travel).

David Attenborough has visited every continent on the globe over six decades, exploring the wild places of our

planet; therefore, he has seen first-hand the monumental scale of environmental change caused by human actions. He's released a documentary and a book both called 'A Life On our planet' which stress the risk of climate change and destruction of the natural environment. *'If we all make our choices with nature in mind, then together we'll find a way to live in balance with the natural world'*.

Paris Climate agreement is a legally binding agreement on climate change to limit global warming to well below 2



David Attenborough
Broadcaster and naturalist