Threshold Concepts and Milestones

Threshold *Concept*	Year 3	Content
Investigate places This concept involves understanding the geographical location of places and their physical and human features.	• Ask and answer geographical questions about the physical characteristics of a location. • Use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features. • Use fieldwork to observe and record the physical features in the local area using a range of methods including sketch maps and plans. • Name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying physical characteristics including hills, mountains, cities, rivers. key topographical features and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time.	Locate the continent of Europe on a range of world maps (atlas, globe, aerial images and digital mapping technology – Google Earth). Understand Europe's positioning in relation to the Equator, Topic of Cancer, Tropic of Capricorn, Prime Meridian, Eastern and Western hemisphere. *Which hemisphere is Europe entirely within?* Name and explore countries within the continent of Europe and locate some using longitude and latitude lines. Become familiar with positioning, size and shape of some countries. *How many countries are there in Europe? Which are the three largest countries in Europe? Which is the biggest island in Europe? Which is the smallest city in Europe? Which oceans border Europe?* Look at how the UK fits onto Europe and learn about its counties, cities, geographical regions and physical characteristics. Use local fieldwork to observe the physical features of Nottingham. Information and discussion about key facts about Europe and European countries. Define 'inhabitants', 'population'. Explore languages spoken by different populations. Compare population sizes. Name coastal and enclave countries. *What is the population of Europe? Why is the population of Europe surprising? Which European countries have the largest and smallest population? What is Europe's and the world's most northerly capital city? What are the three main types of languages*

	• Use a range of resources to identify the key physical features of a location. • Name and locate the countries of Europe and identify their main physical characteristics	
Investigate patterns This concept involves understanding the relationships between the physical features of places and the human activity within them, and the appreciation of how the world's natural resources are used and transported.	• Name and locate the Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, Arctic and Antarctic Circle. Describe some of the characteristics of these geographical areas. • Describe geographical similarities and differences between countries.	Locate key physical characteristics within European countries – focusing on mountains and rivers. Define watercourse, tributaries, source, mouth, channel, riverbed, meanders, oxbow lakes, deltas and estuary. Look how rivers change throughout their journey. Define mountain ranges, peak, boundary and summit. Types of mountains – volcanic, fold, block. - The Volga River – the longest river in Europe flowing through Central Russia and into the Caspian Sea (3531 km). The source starts in the Valdai Hills in Moscow, 225m above sea level. Largest estuary in Europe. - The Danube River – the second longest river in Europe flowing through or bordering ten different countries before draining into the Black Sea (2850 km). Gathers water from more than 300 tributaries. Danube Delta in Romania. - The Douro River bordering Spain and Portugal - over time the river and its tributaries have carved out an intricate system of deep twisting valleys, sometimes narrowing to sheer-sided ravines or gorges. - Mount Elbrus (5642m), a dormant volcano within the Caucasus Mountains in Southern Russia – the highest European Mountain range. - Mount Vesuvius volcano in southern Italy- famous eruption took place in 79 CE and covered the city of Pompeii in ash. - Mount Blanc (4810m), the highest mountain within the Alps between Italy and France.

		• The Dolomites mountain range located in north eastern Italy (3343m). • The Pyrenees mountain range between Spain and France (3404m). • Carpathian Mountains – a semi-circular mountain range in eastern Europe • Alps – in central western Europe (Switzerland, Italy and France • Scandinavian Mountains – run through Scandinavia Erosion and Deposition of sediment how that changes landscapes, river course etc. Coastal erosion – La Côte d'Albâtre, (The Alabaster Coast) – an 80-mile stretch of coastline between Étretat and Dieppe in Normandy, France. It shares the same geology as the coast around Dover, and the sea has carved the same sheer cliffs and rock arches and stacks from it.
Communicate geographically This concept involves understanding geographical representations, vocabulary and techniques.	• Describe key aspects of: • **physical geography**, including: rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes and the water cycle. • Use the eight points of a compass, simple grid references to communicate knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world.	Name and place key rivers and mountains (range and summits) within Europe, including the UK. Label sketches of the water cycle – the water source with evaporation, condensation, precipitation - originating at height in mountain ranges. Surface run off collects water in streams and how this changes throughout the journey to the estuary. Share maps to illustrate the location of mountains and rivers, using a simple, effective key. Enliven presentation about how river erosion/deposition or coastal erosion has changed landscapes within Europe.