



Geography  
**Mastery**

# Geography Mastery Secondary

**Working hand in hand with schools to  
deliver immediate impact and sustained  
subject excellence**



**Ark Curriculum+**

# Hello!

## Welcome to Geography Mastery Secondary.

Having founded our first programme Mathematics Mastery a decade ago, I'm proud of the role Ark Curriculum Plus has played in the national shift towards a mastery approach to learning across more subjects. This methodology is designed to help *all* learners achieve, whatever their starting point. For geography, beginning with a clear, well sequenced and ambitious curriculum is a crucial step but it's nothing without confident teachers, who have the subject knowledge and best practice pedagogies to deliver brilliant geography lessons.

That's a big ask, especially with many schools lacking the comprehensive support and subject specialist teachers required to deliver consistent, high-quality geography teaching.

Our **subject excellence programme** fills that gap, providing the expert support and practical building blocks schools need to teach Key Stage 3 geography using the mastery approach.

Informed by extensive international research and practical insights into effective geography teaching, we developed a contemporary, highly visual and exciting KS3 programme. Geography Mastery Secondary is carefully sequenced to support deep geographical thinking over time.

We have developed and rigorously tested Geography Mastery Secondary in Ark schools, so we know it works in real classrooms. It allows teachers to repurpose their time on the things that make great teaching and learning – co-planning and intellectual preparation, adapting delivery for each class and using formative assessment responsively. Students love the exciting topics not usually covered at KS3, and that they do lots of practical geography and fieldwork.

### How does it work?

Success starts with confident teachers. That's why you'll have a dedicated subject expert guiding you through our 5-Step Improvement Process and your teachers will enjoy face-to-face induction training and flexible CPD. Plus, you'll have immediate access to the practical assessment, planning and teaching resources you need to embed Geography Mastery in the classroom.

Putting it all together, we enable your school to achieve and sustain consistently excellent geography teaching.

We partner with hundreds of schools, including some of the largest MATs in the country. I feel privileged to be working with so many incredible school leaders and teachers, united in a shared mission to help all learners make progress in geography, whatever their starting point, and to *enjoy* it. I hope you will join us!

**DR HELEN DRURY**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



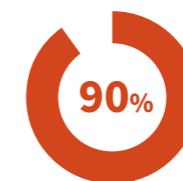
# Put simply, what we do works!

Since developing Geography Mastery Secondary we have piloted it in 30 schools over four years and have received fantastic feedback on the programme so far. Teachers and their students agree that our programme works.

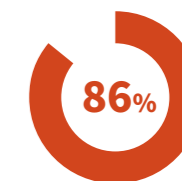
### OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS AGREE THAT THE PROGRAMME HAS IMPACT:



of users say that students taught by Early Career Teachers or non-specialists **benefit from higher quality teaching**



of teachers agreed that their **subject knowledge has improved** and they teach more confidently



of users say that **less time is spent** searching for and creating resources

### WHAT PEOPLE SAY

“

*Geography Mastery provides us with a comprehensive narrative explaining the key themes students will study each year. I found this particularly useful as a non-subject specialist when we had a geography deep dive in our summer Ofsted – I could confidently articulate the rationale behind the subject.”*

**FREDDIE REDFERN**  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL  
DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

“

*It has particularly helped with student engagement and with supporting non-subject specialists to deliver engaging lessons! It has helped to improve my confidence.”*

**TEACHER OF  
GEOGRAPHY MASTERY**

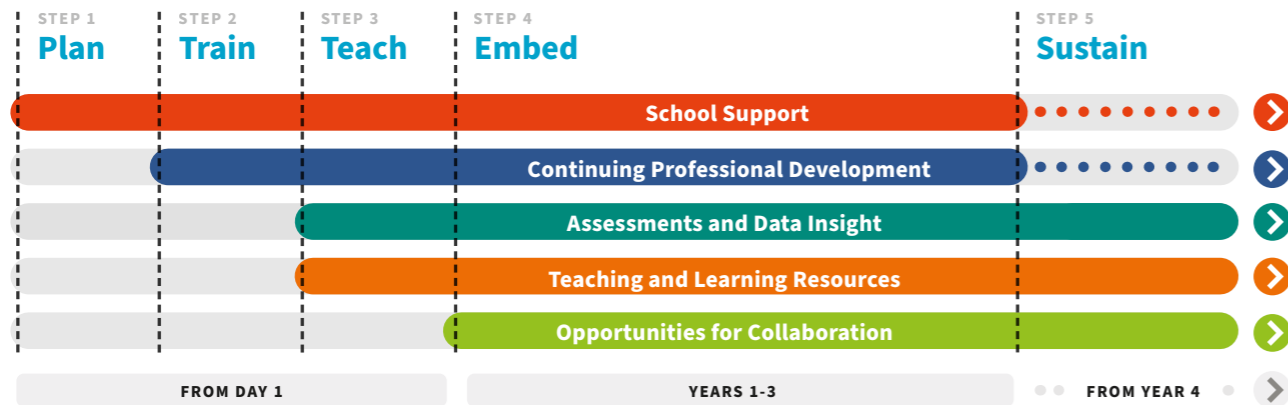


# Framework for success

The 2021 EEF School Planning Guide\*\* highlighted that ‘the best available evidence indicates that **great teaching** is the **most important lever** schools have to **improve outcomes** for their pupils.’

To achieve powerful teaching that changes lives, teachers have told us they need to have strong subject knowledge, the best evidence-based pedagogies, rigorous assessment and effective planning, all working together.

Our Subject Excellence Programmes follow the AC+ 5-Step Improvement Process, which is based on over a decade’s experience of transforming results in one of the most respected MATs and hundreds of schools nationwide. Improvement is a journey – that’s why you will have a dedicated subject expert to guide you step by step, helping you achieve and sustain excellence.



<p><b>STEP 1</b> <b>Plan</b></p> <p>You will receive a structured <b>diagnostic call</b> and your subject expert will help you to prepare an improvement plan to identify areas of focus to achieve the greatest impact with all your teachers.</p> <p><b>OUTCOMES</b> SLT confidence Clear plan agreed</p>	<p><b>STEP 2</b> <b>Train</b></p> <p>Our face-to-face <b>induction training</b> and cutting-edge <b>online training</b> for your subject lead and teachers gets everyone engaged and immediately builds teacher confidence.</p> <p><b>OUTCOMES</b> Teacher confidence</p>	<p><b>STEP 3</b> <b>Teach</b></p> <p>Our curriculum-integrated, <b>subject-specific CPD, planning and teaching resources, assessments</b> and precise <b>diagnostic data</b> repurpose teacher time into higher value activities. The best-practice resources strengthen the quality of teaching and provide consistency across your school.</p> <p><b>OUTCOMES</b> Consistency Repurposed time Ambitious curriculum</p>
<p><b>STEP 4</b> <b>Embed</b></p> <p>Once the foundations are set, we work with you to attain excellence in subject teaching. We provide <b>in-school leadership and teacher coaching</b> and offer support through <b>school visits, joint learning walks</b> and an <b>intensive programme leadership course</b>. Teachers access a <b>programme of subject pedagogy</b> and <b>on-demand videos</b>. This approach ensures outstanding subject teaching in your school.</p> <p><b>OUTCOMES</b> Pupil progress Pedagogical expertise</p>	<p><b>STEP 5</b> <b>Sustain</b></p> <p>Longer term, we collaborate to build sustained impact. <b>Induction and CPD</b> support new staff. Regular <b>teaching resources</b> and <b>CPD</b> updates keep your offerings current and informed. <b>Benchmarked assessments</b> provide ongoing confidence. You’ll remain part of a <b>network</b> of similar schools, staying up-to-date on new research. Together, we’ll annually evaluate programme success, maintaining maximum impact for your pupils.</p> <p><b>OUTCOMES</b> Consistency Pedagogical expertise Pupil progress</p>	

\*\* Access the 2021 EEF School Planning Guide: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/news/introducing-eef-school-planning-guide-2020-21>

## A fully integrated programme

All the components of Geography Mastery Secondary work together to ensure your school, staff and students get real impact from the evidence-led subject excellence programme.

	<p><b>SCHOOL SUPPORT</b></p> <p>From day one, your dedicated subject expert collaborates with teachers to create a tailored improvement plan for your school. They’ll then support you to success through the five steps over multiple years.</p>
	<p><b>CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <p>Teachers and leaders get immediately actionable CPD at point of need. It supports subject knowledge, pedagogic delivery, curriculum design and more. Flexibility is key, with online or in-person sessions.</p>
	<p><b>ASSESSMENTS AND DATA INSIGHT</b></p> <p>Formative assessments for data-led instruction are available in each lesson, unit, term and year. Standardised assessments, directly linked to the curriculum, identify pupil learning gaps for targeted intervention.</p>
	<p><b>TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES</b></p> <p>Curriculum-integrated planning tools and resources ensure successful programme delivery. From day one, you access carefully sequenced support for consistent, impactful, engaging lessons, built on best-practice pedagogies.</p>
	<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION</b></p> <p>You join a subject teaching network, fostering the exchange of best practices. Teachers and leaders connect at in-person CPD events, including induction, creating a community of practice.</p>

# Dedicated school support

From day one, you'll have a dedicated Geography Mastery Secondary subject expert from our team of educators. They each have a background in, or currently teach, secondary geography. They'll collaborate with your leaders and teachers to create a tailored improvement plan for your school. Then they'll help to **introduce**, **embed** and **sustain** the programme over multiple years, ensuring a lasting positive impact on your students.

## M360 diagnostic call

After a thorough review, a diagnostic call with your subject expert helps to identify key focus areas for maximum impact. You'll build an improvement plan to achieve these goals consistently with all teachers.

## School visits

Your subject expert will regularly visit your school for joint learning walks with the Mastery Lead, to observe programme delivery. You can also involve them in co-planning or they can run customised CPD workshops.

## Online development sessions

Our regular one-to-one sessions offer coaching and mentoring for your Mastery Lead. These are carefully designed to work for each stage of your implementation journey.

## Support for you

Get in touch with your subject expert by phone or email, whenever you need advice or have questions. No query is too small and no problem too big. We are here to help!

**888** Meet some of our team on page 22



# Actionable CPD at point of need

## CPD that is relevant and immediately actionable

Geography Mastery Secondary provides targeted continuing professional development that's **immediately actionable**, covering subject knowledge, pedagogy, curriculum design, assessment and more. It's **flexible** – accessible online just when you need it or through inspiring and practical in-person sessions that foster a **community of practice**.

“

*My subject knowledge has developed. I have been pushed to present different information in new ways.”*

**TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY  
MASTERY**



## Induction training

Everyone joining the programme takes part in **induction training**. New schools have **four in-person places**, and **everyone can attend online**. It's a wonderful way to get your team excited and prepared for their journey on the programme and to set them up for success. Plus, all modules are available on-demand (in our bespoke MyMastery platform) to revisit when required.

## ‘Teaching Mastery’ badging

Teachers enjoy online, **CPD that builds subject and pedagogical expertise**. For each completed module they gain a badge – a great way to evidence their professional development as steps towards further qualifications like NPQs.



“

*It was useful to learn practical strategies I can take away today and implement tomorrow for LPAs, and how to take mastery resources and edit my teaching approach for specific groups.”*

**TEACHER OF  
GEOGRAPHY  
MASTERY**

## Termly ‘Preparing to Teach’ webinars

Strengthening teachers' **topic-specific subject knowledge** for the upcoming term, our webinars support teachers in effective programme delivery. Breakouts focus on common challenges within similar year groups. It's a chance to share good practice and collaborate with other partner schools.

## Leadership certification

Your Mastery Lead receives online CPD and ongoing mentoring from their subject expert. They will earn the **Ark Curriculum Plus Certificate in Programme Leadership**, providing recognition for both them and your school.



## In-school visits

Your subject expert can deliver some of the above CPD sessions during one of their visits, providing more **bespoke training** to meet your school's needs.

# Assessment to inform teaching

Geography Mastery Secondary includes formative assessments within lessons, units and at the end of term, along with curriculum-linked standardised assessments. They help pinpoint student learning gaps and guide effective interventions.

## Formative assessments

Our unique curriculum-integrated formative assessments focus on one concept per question, helping teachers understand areas needing support. They **test what students have learned, reveal knowledge gaps**, and **uncover misconceptions**, helping teachers identify learning barriers.

“

*The assessment is really important because it helps us to understand how to prepare students' skills.”*

**LUCIA TAMBURELLO**  
HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY

ARK ACADEMY

**Pre-unit quizzes** diagnose misconceptions that would otherwise stall learning in the upcoming unit.

8) In which region is the Nile River located?

a) A  
b) B  
c) C  
d) D

**Post-unit quizzes** evaluate students' understanding of the unit, identifying knowledge gaps to retable before they write the end of unit essay.

5) Which two main places do people collect freshwater from?

a) the atmosphere and rivers  
b) the atmosphere and the sea  
c) underground and rivers  
d) underground and the sea

Question	Answer	Supporting information for retable tasks
8	D	<p>Any answer other than D indicates the need to retable compass points, or a gap in place knowledge.</p> <p><b>Retable activity:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using the Q8 slide, determine whether students know the 8 compass points. Point to regions in Africa using choral response to check they can identify direction.</li> <li>If students do not know the compass points, pause and retable using <a href="#">this compass</a>.</li> <li>If students do know the compass points, you'll know the problem is a gap in place knowledge. Using Lesson 3 Slide 4 retable the River Nile location (north-east Africa).</li> </ul> <p><b>Task:</b> Describe the location of the River Nile. Refer to the continent, compass points, and name the river.</p>

**Retable materials** signpost likely misconceptions and suggest retable activities to close the gaps revealed by the quiz.

## Standardised assessments



Geography Mastery Secondary presents a picture of your school's progress compared to **national data samples**, providing reassurance and a clear view on how and what to improve. You can also analyse by student, class and cohort.

Summative assessments on Smartgrade (our partner platform, included when you join) are **standardised yearly** and provide a large, nationally representative data sample.

### UNIQUELY, THE PROGRAMME PROVIDES:

- The **largest pool of KS3 geography data in the UK** so you can be confident in the age-related grade boundaries we provide.
- Comparison to **current attainment data** rather than historic – crucial for identifying pandemic-related gaps.
- School **benchmarking** to identify areas of strength and development.
- Targeted **retable planning and support** to guide improvement.

**Summative assessments** assess knowledge cumulatively.

Study **Figure 5**, showing the **Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD)**. The GERD is a **hydroelectric dam**, built across the Blue Nile river.

**Figure 5**

**Question 12**  
Explain why Ethiopia has built this dam. **[4 marks]**

**Builds familiarity with command terms and question styles.**

**Synoptic questions** draw on knowledge from across the course.

Year 8 Geography Mastery summer assessment

# Best-practice teaching and learning resources

We provide all the resources so you can focus on your students!

The best-practice planning tools and comprehensive lesson resources provide everything your school needs to deliver the programme successfully. From day one, your staff will have access and support to deliver consistent, impactful, engaging and pedagogically strong geography lessons, sequenced to build students' **substantive, procedural and disciplinary knowledge** as they become successful young geographers.

## THE TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES:

- Promote oracy in flexible, practical ways that build competence and confidence in 'talking geography'.
- Provide structure and support so that you own the curriculum, with quick videos and at-a-glance planning guides.
- Are created with early career teachers (ECTs), non-specialists and specialists in mind, giving the relevant level of guidance for each.
- Include practical tips to adapt your delivery to suit your students' and school's needs.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED?

#### Planning

- Curriculum framework
- Programme of study
- Teacher guidance
- Unit overviews

#### Teaching

- Student booklets
- Task sheets
- Lesson slides
- Essay support
- Geography Meetings
- Fieldwork
- GIS

 Click here to access a free **Programme Preview** and see examples of these resources.

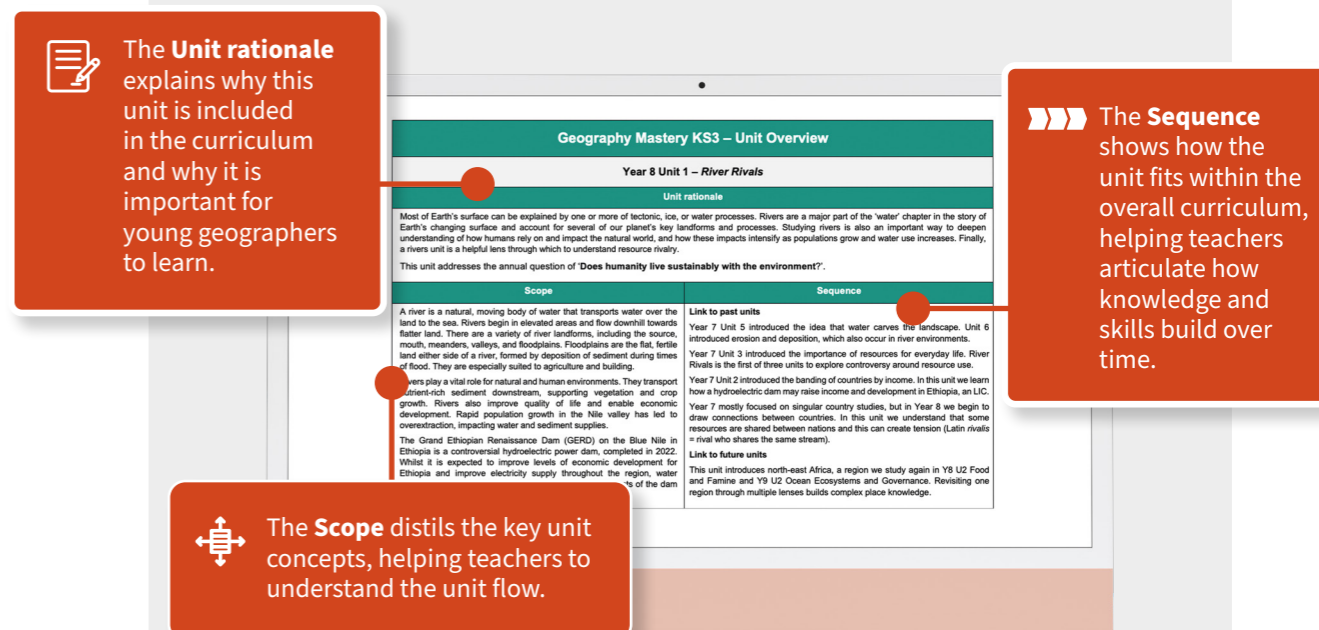
## Unit overview

Teachers at our partner schools appreciate this key document and its unique guidance. It helps them to understand the **context and goals of the unit** they are about to teach, ensuring that their daily teaching fits a larger purpose. Each one also gives teachers guidance on the **sequence of lessons, possible adaptations and signposts to relevant CPD** videos and research articles.

**“***The Unit overview is the most important document for us. When I didn't have anyone to fill in the KS3 role, the Unit overview was really helpful for making our own learning objectives and guiding us when we adapt the Mastery booklet.***”**

**LUCIA TAMBURELLO**  
HEAD OF GEOGRAPHY

ARK ACADEMY




**The Unit rationale** explains why this unit is included in the curriculum and why it is important for young geographers to learn.

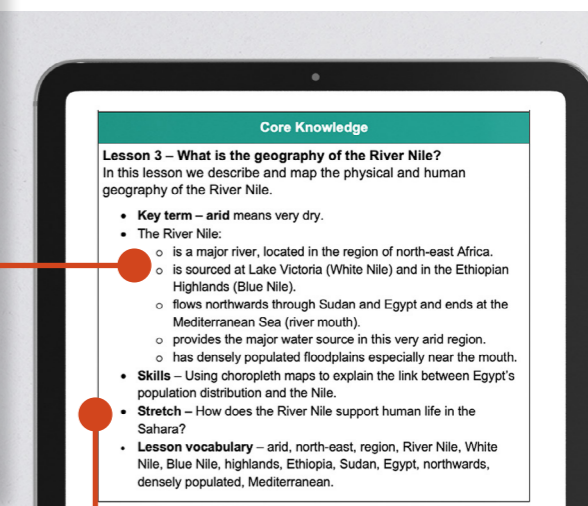
**The Sequence** shows how the unit fits within the overall curriculum, helping teachers articulate how knowledge and skills build over time.

**The Scope** distils the key unit concepts, helping teachers to understand the unit flow.

## Core knowledge

The Unit overview also includes the **core knowledge** for each lesson in a unit. Each Geography Mastery lesson is underpinned by core knowledge statements. These define the most important concepts in a lesson.

 Core knowledge statements help teachers to focus on the **most important concepts** in lessons, and to make intelligent decisions when **adapting their delivery** for different groups.



**Lesson 3 – What is the geography of the River Nile?**  
In this lesson we describe and map the physical and human geography of the River Nile.

- **Key term – arid** means very dry.
- **The River Nile:**
  - is a major river, located in the region of north-east Africa.
  - is sourced at Lake Victoria (White Nile) and in the Ethiopian Highlands (Blue Nile).
  - flows northwards through Sudan and Egypt and ends at the Mediterranean Sea (river mouth).
  - provides the major water source in this very arid region.
  - has densely populated floodplains especially near the mouth.
- **Skills** – Using choropleth maps to explain the link between Egypt's population distribution and the Nile.
- **Stretch** – How does the River Nile support human life in the Sahara?
- **Lesson vocabulary** – arid, north-east, region, River Nile, White Nile, Blue Nile, highlands, Ethiopia, Sudan, Egypt, northwards, densely populated, Mediterranean.

 Each lesson has a designated **Skill**, an optional **Stretch** activity, and **Lesson vocabulary** supported by the unit **Glossary**.



## Teacher guidance

A **Teacher guidance** booklet is provided for each unit.

This includes practical lesson-by-lesson guidance to ensure that all teachers, regardless of experience, feel prepared to teach brilliant geography lessons.

As a result, **100% of users say that students taught by Early Career Teachers or non-specialists benefit from higher quality teaching** as a result of Geography Mastery.



*Ensures that all students – regardless of the experience of their teacher – have access to a good quality curriculum. Thus, Geography Mastery ‘raises the bar’ from the bottom for all students.”*

**TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY MASTERY**

Short summaries of the **lesson purpose** and **activities** help all teachers to walk into lessons with confidence.

**Lesson 3 – What is the geography of the River Nile?**  
In this lesson we describe and map the physical and human geography of the River Nile.

**Teacher guidance**  
The purpose of Lesson 3 is to understand the geography of the Nile. By the end of the lesson students should have produced an annotated map of the Nile and be able to explain its influence on Egypt's population distribution.

**The Do Now** recalls the path of rivers (from high land to the sea), the meaning of 'river source', and checks ability to identify regions within Africa using compass points.

**The New Learning** introduces the Nile in the wider context of north-east Africa. Focus on ensuring that students understand where the River Nile is within Africa first. Next, unpick Figure 1, helping students to identify the sources of the river, the White Nile and Blue Nile rivers and where they join to form the Nile, the mouth and the direction of flow. You can use the scale to demonstrate the enormity of the Nile. If time allow, you may wish to use Google Earth to explore the river in more detail (link to tutorial in lesson folder).

**The first Check for understanding (CFU)** is a Fact or Fib. It would work well as a verbal task – flick back to slide 4 to explore the river in more detail (link to tutorial in lesson folder).

**The Develop Learning** uses choropleth maps to explore how Egypt's aridity has caused people to settle along the Nile, clarify any misconceptions.

**The second CFU** is a Skill Check of choropleth map reading. Deliver verbally for fast formative assessment.

**The Independent Task** is in two parts. For Part A students label physical and human features along the Nile. Part B is a short paragraph describing how Egypt's population distribution is linked to the Nile.

**The Stretch** deepens understanding of the reasons for dense populations on the Nile floodplains, focussing on various uses of Nile freshwater.

Low prior attaining	Mixed ability	High prior attaining
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>check for the New Learning – check for the misconception that the Nile flows from north to south. <b>Fact:</b> the river flows from highlands in the south downhill to the sea in the north.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure students understand that Egypt does not receive sufficient rain for agriculture – its farmland exists due to the Nile.</li> <li>Listen carefully for CFU answers which you could write onto the board to help students with Part B of the Independent Task.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider referring to the Stretch in the Develop Learning as it provides more detail about the benefits of living near the Nile.</li> <li>It is important for students to attempt the Stretch as it explains the role of the Nile's agricultural land in supporting Egypt's large population.</li> </ul>

**Action Points**

- Develop your own subject knowledge using [Nile Basin Atlas](#), especially [Chapter 2](#) (Introduction to the Nile Basin) and the [Conclusion](#).
- Print 1x blank worksheet per student for the Independent Task – which will you use with your group?
- Study the Part B Independent Task exemplars – which will you use to enrich students' Part B answers.
- Decide whether you will use the Stretch within your teaching to enrich students' Part B answers.

**Practical tips to adapt your delivery** support teachers to deliver the content at the right pitch for their classes.

**Action Points** summarise how to prepare for the lesson.

**Exemplar answers** are provided for all tasks, helping teachers to define their expectations.

## Mastery booklets

Our student-facing Mastery booklets are unique in their quality, rich content and built-in knowledge checks. Full of visual stimuli, they bring abstract concepts and far-flung places to life.

They're available as ready-to-use pdfs or editable versions for teachers who wish to tailor for their students. By minimising the time they spend researching and designing materials, the booklets enable teachers to focus on adaptation and classroom practice.



*This programme has had a significant positive impact on my teaching. ...instead of researching content, I can focus on my teaching pedagogy, plan for misconceptions, scaffold activities for specific classes as required.”*

**ROSE DAVIS**  
GEOGRAPHY TEACHER

TRINITY ACADEMY LEEDS

**Visually engaging materials** make the core knowledge accessible and exciting for students.

**Lesson 3 – What is the geography of the River Nile?**

**Task – complete a-c in your exercise book.**

- Rivers always flow from high / low land to the mountains / sea.
- What does **source** of a river mean?
- Which letter shows the **north-east** region of Africa?

**Sketch** – Have you visited a river? What did you see?

**Vocabulary**  
Add means very dry.

**Where is the River Nile?**  
Figure 1 shows the River Nile. At 6,850 km in length, the Nile is the longest river in the world. It flows through 11 countries in north-east Africa and is very important for the whole region.

The Nile has two sources:

- Lake Victoria is the source of the White Nile.
- Lake Tana, in the Ethiopian highlands, is the source of the Blue Nile.

The White and Blue Nile join in Sudan, forming the River Nile. The river flows north, eventually reaching Egypt and flowing into the Mediterranean Sea (Figure 1).

**Map scale**  
1:000km

**Check for understanding**

**Fact or Fib?**

- The Nile has two sources.
- The White Nile flows through Ethiopia.
- The Nile flows from north to south.

Each lesson begins with **knowledge recall** and a **skill check** to bring prior learning into working memory.

Regular **Checks for understanding** support students to apply knowledge and skills in small chunks, and enable teachers to identify and address misconceptions as they arise. CFUs can be delivered as written or talk tasks.

An optional **Stretch** task is available to enrich students' understanding of the lesson core knowledge.

Each lesson culminates in an **Independent Task** where students apply core knowledge and skills.



## Lesson slides

The Geography Mastery six-part lesson structure is unique and allows teachers to take control of the learning, based on what is happening in the classroom that day. Assessment for learning opportunities are threaded throughout, constantly building upon what students are learning at every stage in the lesson.

**Fully editable slide decks** are provided for each lesson, including notes and guidance to support delivery and ownership. **Oracy is elevated** via Key Terms, Cold Call questions and regular Check for Understanding tasks which can be used as structured talk tasks – making geographical literacy a reality for all students.

**Where is the River Nile?**

The Nile is in **north-east Africa**.

It has **two sources**:

- Ethiopian Highlands (Blue Nile)
- Lake Victoria (White Nile)

It **flows northwards** through Sudan and Egypt and ends at the Mediterranean Sea (river mouth).

**Map scale** 1000km

**Learning**

**Cold Call questions** in slide notes support targeted questioning.

**Fact or Fib**

a) 'The Nile has **two sources**.' ✓

b) 'The **White Nile** flows through Ethiopia.' ✗

c) 'The Nile flows from **north to south**.' ✗

**Corrections**

a) The **Blue Nile** flows through Ethiopia.

a) The Nile flows from **south to north**.

**Check for understanding**

**Engaging content** such as photos, clips and interactive maps bring the core knowledge to life.

Regular **Checks for understanding** expose misconceptions and support responsive teaching.

“

Students like the structure of the lesson (they know what to expect and do) which has allowed for greater enjoyment of the subject.”

TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY MASTERY

**How has the Nile shaped Egypt's population distribution?**

North-east Africa is an extremely **arid** (dry) region. The Nile is Egypt's **main water source**, so most Egyptians live near the river.

**Figure 3 – Annual precipitation**

compare to Liberia!

**Sahara Desert** Egypt

over 3000 mm  
2000-3000  
1500-2000  
1000-1500  
600-1000  
400-600  
200-400  
100-200  
0-100 mm

**People per km²**

5000+  
1000 - 5000  
500 - 1000  
250 - 500  
100 - 250  
50 - 100  
25 - 50  
10 - 25  
5 - 10

Densely populated at the mouth and on floodplains

Sparsely populated away from the Nile

**Develop Learning**

Challenging content is **chunked and animated** to support step-by-step knowledge acquisition.

Slides are designed to be accessible to **neurodivergent learners** and are editable where you need to accommodate specific needs.

**Exemplar**

**Part B – Write like a geographer**  
Describe how Egypt's population distribution is linked to the Nile.

Most of Egypt's population (95%) is **distributed** along the **River Nile**. This is because Egypt is very **arid**, receiving less than **100mm** of **precipitation** each year, so people rely on the Nile for their **freshwater**. Figure 4 shows that along the Nile floodplains the population density is **over 1000 people per km²**. The most **densely** populated area is at the **mouth** of the river. Most of the rest of Egypt is very **sparsely** populated, with **0-5 people km²**.

**Independent Task**

Did your answer include **highlighted terms** above? ✓

Did you write in **full sentences** and start each sentence with a **capital letter**? ✓

Teachers choose between **tiered exemplars** to support improvement of student work.

## Fieldwork

The national curriculum requires fieldwork to be taught at Key Stage 3, yet many schools do not fulfill this due to lack of fieldwork expertise, or cost and logistics.

Geography Mastery helps by providing step-by-step fieldwork guidance to give teachers of all levels of experience the skills and confidence to deliver great fieldwork. Exemplars and exposition show teachers what to say and what their classes should be aiming for. And the materials are designed for use off-site or on the school grounds, depending on your needs.

The programme integrates multiple fieldwork opportunities, above and beyond national curriculum requirements.

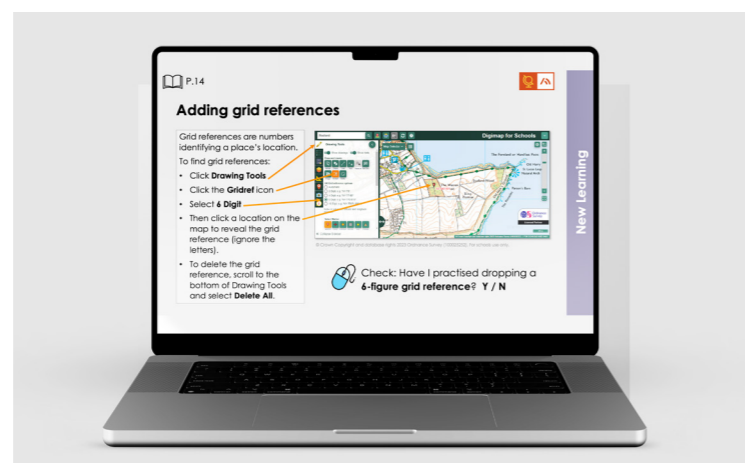
Fieldwork becomes more complex throughout the course, incorporating virtual fieldwork techniques, GIS, onsite data gathering, and sophisticated write-ups.

## GIS

GIS (Geographical Information Systems) is another area of the national curriculum teachers can find challenging to deliver. To address this, the easy-to-use platform Digimap for Schools is built into several Geography Mastery units. Crystal clear instructions in the student and teacher materials enable fantastic GIS lessons that students love.

“*Students are more confident with geographical knowledge and skills – which makes them more motivated to continue studying Geography at KS4. Students in particular like interactive lessons and Digimaps on laptops!*”

**TEACHER OF GEOGRAPHY MASTERY**



# Be inspired by like-minded schools

## Building a community of practice

Partner schools join a **subject teaching network**, sharing best practices and learning from each other. Attend CPD events, including in-person induction and live termly *Preparing to teach* training, subject panels, to collaborate with and be inspired by your peers. Your subject expert may connect you with local or similar context schools, helping you gain insights on delivery or simply see Geography Mastery Secondary in action in other settings.

## A unique design

The Geography Mastery Secondary curriculum is organised through **three annual questions**:

**YEAR 7**



**What are the key physical and human processes on our planet?**

**YEAR 8**



**Does humanity live sustainably with the environment?**

**YEAR 9**



**How globally connected is the world?**

Careful and clear sequencing ensures that **substantive, procedural and disciplinary knowledge** build over time within these annual themes.

Our distinct approach connects physical processes and human interactions via contemporary case studies and exciting topics. Many topics are unique at KS3, for example personal geography, food security, the 2011 Japanese tsunami, coral reefs, conflict in Somali waters and glaciers.

“*Lessons have clear links throughout the years, with knowledge from year 7 linking to year 8 and to GCSE and beyond. Clear focus on the foundations of geography first and structure built upon that, with challenge and ambitious geography throughout.*”

**FATIMA ASMAL** HUMANITIES TEACHER

**ARK ISAAC NEWTON**

# Standing out from the crowd

**The impact of our programmes is clear, but in case you need even more reasons to choose AC+...**



## **Collaboratively designed and refined in classrooms**

Grown in collaboration with Ark Schools, one of the highest achieving MATs in the UK, we continually learn and co-create together. Plus, we test what really works live in the classroom, to make improvements that will have the biggest positive impact.

Our programmes support disadvantaged students – Ark Schools pupils make nearly half a grade more progress than their peers nationally. We're here to help give all students the opportunities that an excellent education provides.

## **Recognised as an educational leader**

We're proud to be recognised as a leader in subject improvement. We work with the Education Endowment Foundation, The Brilliant Club and the Fischer Family Foundation, whose research provides robust evidence of our impact. We collaborate with the subject associations, along with universities including Cambridge and UCL.

## **Accountable to you and your pupils**

We are a non-profit organisation. Our full attention is on supporting our partner schools and making our already impressive programmes the best they can be. We're particularly passionate about helping disadvantaged children and we aim to level the playing field, so that every young person can succeed.

The schools that we work with are charged a financial contribution which goes right back into delivering and developing the programmes. We're not accountable to shareholders, we're accountable to you!

## **Aligned to Ofsted to support your quality of education**

The Education Inspection Framework looks for consistency between the intent of schools' curricula, and the ways schools empower their team to realise these plans. We have supported many schools to be expertly prepared for an Ofsted visit by:

- Providing a powerfully sequenced, academically ambitious curriculum for all.
- Equipping subject leads with the confidence to articulate their curriculum intent, implementation and impact.
- Delivering immediately actionable teacher CPD at the point of need, supporting subject knowledge, pedagogic delivery, curriculum design and more.

# Our expert team

We are both teachers with experience leading geography departments and working in school leadership roles. We love working with Geography Mastery Secondary schools because we truly believe in the power of evidence to inform practice and to narrow the attainment gap. We are members of the Chartered College for Teaching and the Geographical Association – meaning we engage with the latest research and the subject community directly.



## Kate Fritter

Kate is the Head of Geography at Ark Curriculum Plus. She read Social Science at Monash University in Melbourne before completing a Postgraduate degree in secondary humanities education. She taught for ten years in outback Australia and London and was Head of Geography at a south London school for four years. She has a Master's in Violence, Conflict and Development from SOAS, focussing on education in post-conflict settings. Since 2016 she has worked closely with Ark geography teachers and on the design of our Geography Mastery Secondary programme. She can talk under water about geography!



## Hannah Sassoon

Hannah has taught geography for 12 years at comprehensive schools in inner London. She read geography at UCL, and gained a Master's in education from Cambridge University. She is very lucky to be able to split her time between teaching at Ark Elvin Academy in Wembley where she teaches geography, and in her role as Principal Design Lead for Geography Mastery. She is passionate about raising the profile of geography in schools and in the wider educational community.

“

*The key has been the support from the Geography Mastery team. We've been without a HoD in Geography and the team's subject specialist support has been outstanding. It is invaluable due to my subject specialism being History.”*

**FREDDIE REDFERN**  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

DARWEN VALE HIGH SCHOOL

# It's easy to join us



Let us know you're interested by [email](#), phone or by [booking a meeting](#).



We'll have a **virtual meeting or a call** with you to learn more about your school.



Agree you're joining the **Geography Mastery programme** with your senior leadership and sign a contract.



Get set up with Smartgrade and have a **diagnostic call** to agree the plan for your school's implementation.



Attend **induction training** and receive full support to introduce the programme in your school.

## OUR OTHER SUBJECT EXCELLENCE PROGRAMMES

### PRIMARY

 Geography Mastery

 History Mastery

 Mathematics Mastery

 Science Mastery

### SECONDARY

 English Mastery

 Mathematics Mastery

 Science Mastery

## GET IN TOUCH

Speak to a member of our team about **partnering with AC+** today.

 [partnerships@arkcurriculumplus.org.uk](mailto:partnerships@arkcurriculumplus.org.uk)

 020 3116 6363

 Or book a call online at a time that suits you: [calendly.com/ark-curriculum-plus](https://calendly.com/ark-curriculum-plus)

# We look forward to partnering with you!

**We work with schools like yours nationwide to deliver immediate impact and sustained subject excellence.**

So if you're looking for stronger student outcomes, more confident teachers and consistently high-quality teaching and learning across your school... Relax. With Ark Curriculum Plus, you're in safe hands.

**Start your journey to subject excellence today!**



Click here to request access to our **Programme Preview** and see more detail of what you get on the programme.

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