



Cornerstones[™]
International

BRITISH FOUNDATIONS.
GLOBAL EXCELLENCE.

THE CORNERSTONES CURRICULUM



DESIGNED WITH
BRITISH INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOLS IN MIND





WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Cornerstones Education is a team of dedicated, specialist primary educators. We work with thousands of forward-thinking primary schools across the globe to revolutionise their curriculum and integrate meaningful assessment.

Our revolutionary platform Maestro offers primary schools across the globe everything they need to create, manage, lead and assess their curriculum, as well as providing free online training, advice and CPD sessions with our dedicated team of curriculum experts.

Leading change

Working in partnership with schools of all sizes and configurations, we help you to develop a more dynamic approach to curriculum that makes a big difference to teachers, leaders and learners.



Trusted expert advisers

Our team of curriculum advisers are fully qualified and experienced teachers who are highly skilled at helping schools to build and manage their curriculum and assessment systems. Here every weekday from 8am to 4pm UK time via phone, LiveChat and e-mail, no question is too small. Advisers are also available for training and face-to-face meetings if needed.

Imagine better

If you want to develop your existing curriculum or build a new one; improve assessment of one or multiple subjects; improve subject leadership and transform your schools management systems for the better, then call us to find out more on +44 (0) 3333 20 8000.



YOUR PLATFORM, TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Maestro is home to over 400 projects of different styles including cross-curricular, single-subject and knowledge-rich, and also offers you a fully sequenced curriculum framework from Nursery to Year 6 and progression maps for all subjects of the English national curriculum.

Projects, lesson plans and resources

Our collection of projects contain lesson plans and thousands of resources made by our experienced writers and designers. These cover science, history, geography, art and design, design and technology and a full EYFS curriculum. English packs are available for many genres, and there are termly KS1 book and KS2 novel studies.

Maestro also provides lesson plans and resources for:

Mathematics

through:



Religious education

through:



Computing

through:



Create your bespoke curriculum

If you are looking for something more bespoke, the curriculum framework provides a fantastic structure on which you can build your own ambitious curriculum. Cultural capital and localisation opportunities are embedded throughout the framework to support the inclusion of children's lived experiences wherever you are in the world.

Retrieval and testing

End-of-project tests and low-stakes quizzes on Maestro help teachers to assess children's learning, as does the easy-to-use live assessment system integrated with the curriculum framework. With the dynamic assessment of classes, groups and individuals, teachers have immediate data on gaps in children's learning and progress and can make any necessary adaptations or revisions to ensure that all children have a deep understanding of key concepts.

SUPPORT THE ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE

The resources available on Maestro present the knowledge children need in a variety of different ways for maximum knowledge acquisition, including verbal and visual. All diagrams and photographs are clear and accurate, and we always use high-quality, ambitious texts. With exceptional videos and engaging podcasts included, children are given every opportunity to develop a secure understanding of new concepts.

Our range of resources is vast. To give you a glimpse, here are a few examples:



Models and diagrams

explain tricky concepts of the curriculum and help children to understand how things work.



Information sheets

provide the necessary information and core knowledge children need for individual lessons and activities.



Videos

help children to visualise and get to grips with difficult concepts of the curriculum, such as circulation, the solar system and gears.



Audio

resources bring the curriculum to life through the telling of stories, historical accounts, radio shows and engaging audio.



Presentations

give children the knowledge they need to understand core concepts, topics and themes of the curriculum.



Knowledge organisers

provide the necessary knowledge children need to remember for all curriculum projects.



Maps

help children to understand place, space, position and location.

Example projects from the Cornerstones Curriculum



Nursery and Reception Curriculum Project

This project teaches children about the plants and animals that live at the seaside. It also explores holidays in the past and the importance of keeping safe in the Sun.

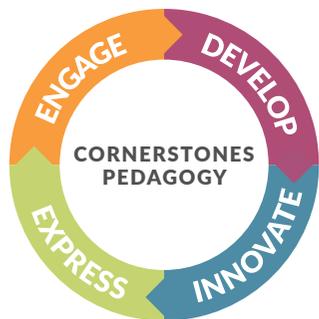


Year 3 Geography Project

This essential skills and knowledge project teaches children to locate countries and cities, and use grid references, compass points and latitude and longitude. They learn about the layers of the Earth and plate tectonics and discover the five major climate zones. They learn about significant places in the United Kingdom and carry out fieldwork to discover how land is used in the locality.

AN EVIDENCE-LED CURRICULUM

The Cornerstones Curriculum places children at the heart of learning. Drawing inspiration from Reggio Emilia and other innovative, knowledge-rich educational models, the Cornerstones Curriculum is based on a unique four stage pedagogy called the Four Cornerstones. The cornerstones of Engage, Develop, Innovate and Express provide a consistent structure for every curriculum project and give your teachers and children a consistent approach which aims to promote high standards while building relationships, confidence and critical thinking.



The purpose of each learning phase is as follows:

Engage: sparks curiosity through immersive experiences and big questions.

Develop: builds secure knowledge and skills through carefully sequenced teaching.

Innovate: encourages creativity and problem-solving through applied projects.

Express: gives learners the opportunity to reflect, present, and celebrate their learning.

By combining creativity with academic rigor, Cornerstones empowers children to become innovative, responsible, and globally minded citizens.



BIG IDEAS TO FOSTER GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

At Cornerstones Education, we believe that great learning starts with big ideas. Our curriculum is built around ten powerful concepts: Humankind, Nature, Creativity, Investigation, Processes, Materials, Place and Space, Comparison, Significance, and Change.

These Big Ideas connect knowledge across subjects, inspire deep thinking, help children make sense of the world, develop essential skills and prepare them for the future.

By embedding these concepts into every stage of learning, we ensure education is meaningful, coherent, and globally relevant.



Humankind

Understanding what it means to be human and the cause and effect of human behaviour.



Processes

Understanding the many dynamic and physical processes that shape the world around us.



Comparison

Understanding how and why things are the same or different.



Significance

Understanding why significant people, places, events and inventions matter.



Change

Understanding why and how things have changed over time.



Nature

Understanding the complexities and interdependence of the plant and animal species that inhabit the world's many ecosystems.



Place and space

Understanding the visual cultural, social and environmental aspects of different places around the world.



Creativity

Understanding how everyday and exceptional creativity can inspire and change perceptions.



Investigation

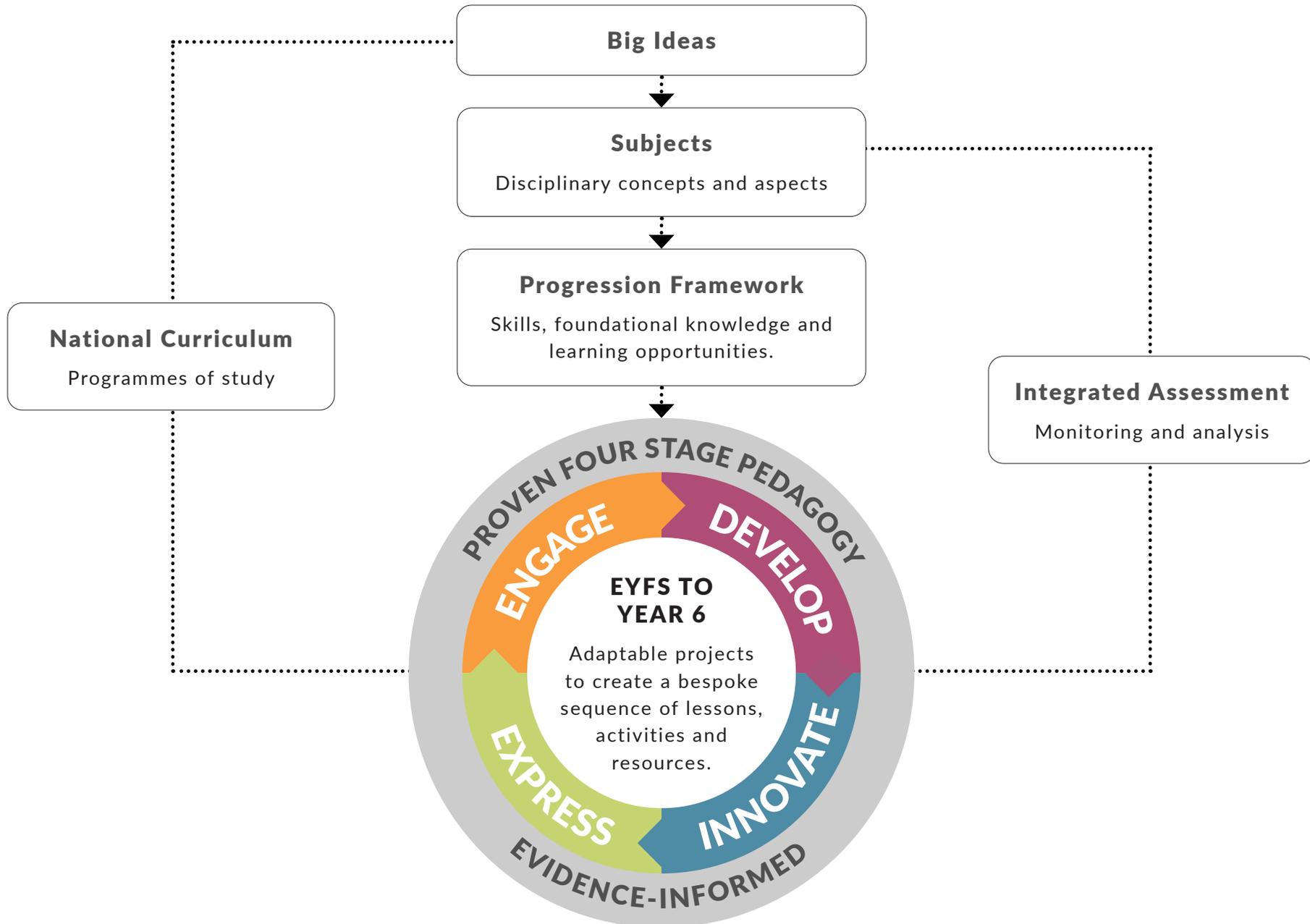
Understanding the importance of asking questions, formulating hypotheses, gathering information and analysing evidence.



Materials

Understanding the unique and physical properties of all matter and how we interact with them.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

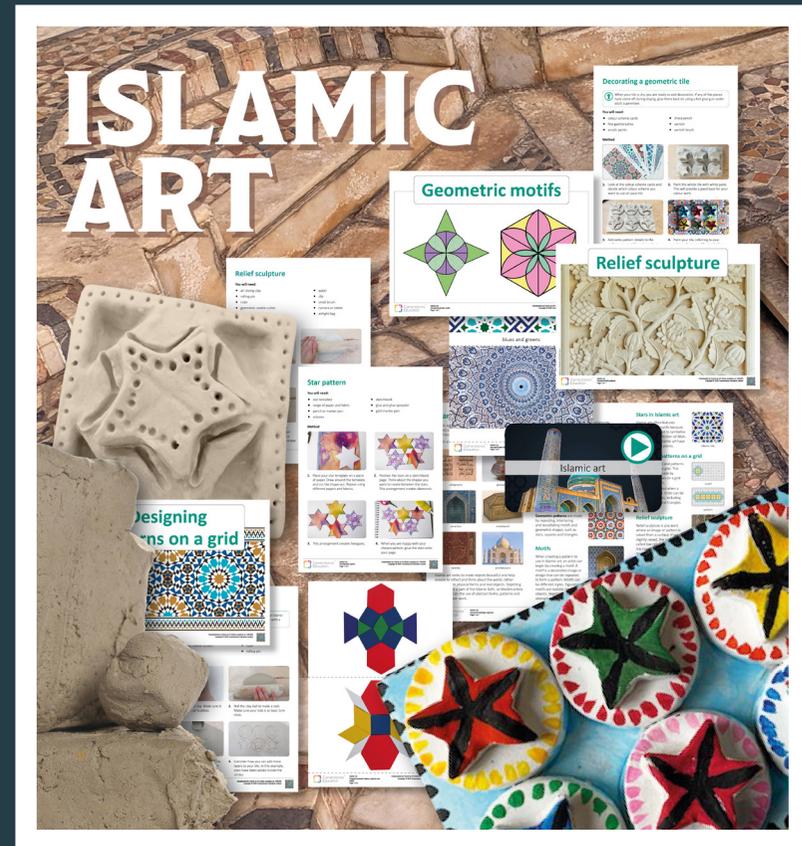


Example projects from the Cornerstones Curriculum



Year 3 History Project

This project teaches children about British prehistory from the Stone Age to the Iron Age, including changes to people and lifestyle caused by ingenuity, invention and technological advancement.



Year 4 Art Project

This project teaches children about the features of Islamic art. They make geometric patterns and motifs on paper, with fabric and in clay. They use their learning to create a high relief clay tile, decorated with geometric patterns.

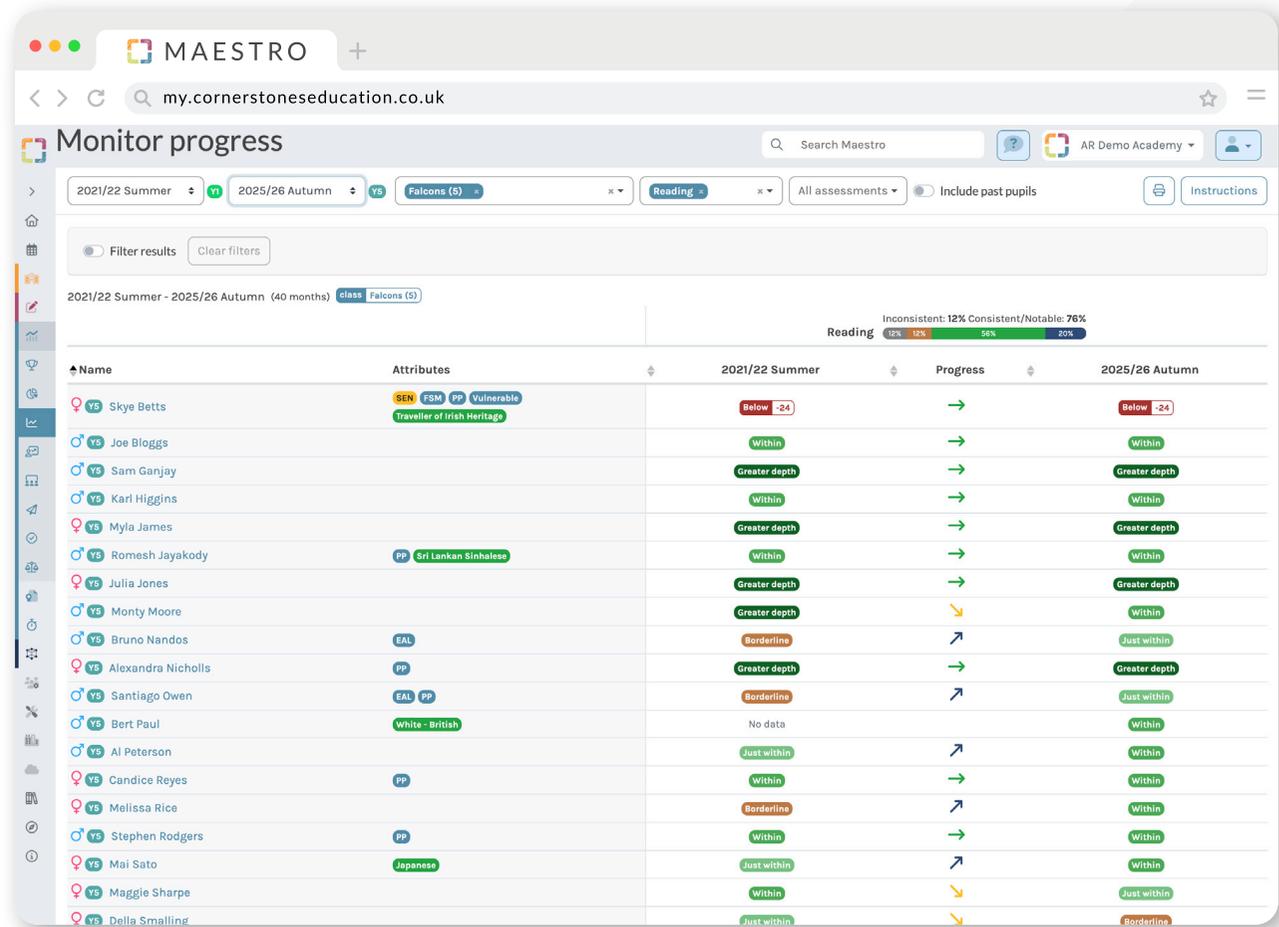
CHOOSE SMARTER WAYS TO WORK

Reduce costs and save time

With Curriculum Maestro, you can quickly overcome typical curriculum challenges, such as:

- sequencing knowledge
- timetabling
- monitoring
- planning
- assessment

Plus, you'll be able to cut costs by eliminating expensive assessment and tracking packages, as Maestro's assessment system is included and fully integrated.



Example of the monitor progress report

Support for teachers

Maestro ensures your teachers can focus on what matters most: providing the best quality of education for your children.

Planning

Teachers can store and share their planning and timetable online, making lesson sequencing and management efficient and effective. The lesson plans provided can be annotated and adapted to suit each class's needs. Teachers can also record and track their actual coverage, making it easier to identify gaps in teaching and learning.

The screenshot displays the MAESTRO My planner interface. The main view is a weekly timetable for Falcones (5) from Monday 02/03 to Friday 06/03. The timetable includes activities such as Registration, Assembly, Playtime, Phonics/Guided reading, Lunchtime, and End of day. A specific lesson plan for 'Lesson 1: Time zones' is highlighted, showing it is a Year 5 Geography lesson. A detailed view of this lesson plan is shown in the foreground, listing five lessons: Lesson 1: Time zones, Lesson 2: Climate zones, Lesson 3: Vegetation, Lesson 4: Biomes, and Lesson 5: Human geography. A hand cursor is pointing at the first lesson.

MAESTRO
my.cornerstoneseducation.co.uk

My planner
Search Maestro
AR Demo Academy

2 - 6 Mar 2026
Day Week Month Instructions

all-day
08:30
09:00
09:30
10:00
10:30
11:00
11:30
12:00
12:30
13:00
13:30
14:00
14:30
15:00
15:30
16:00
16:30

Mon 02/03
Tue 03/03
Wed 04/03
Thu 05/03
Fri 06/03

Registration 08:45 - 09:00
Assembly 10:00 - 10:15
Playtime 10:15 - 10:30
Phonics/Guided reading 10:30 - 11:00
Lunchtime 12:00 - 13:00
End of day 15:00 - 15:15

Registration 08:45 - 09:00
Assembly 10:00 - 10:15
Playtime 10:15 - 10:30
Phonics/Guided reading 10:30 - 11:00
Lunchtime 12:00 - 13:00
End of day 15:00 - 15:15

Registration 08:45 - 09:00
Assembly 10:00 - 10:15
Playtime 10:15 - 10:30
Phonics/Guided reading 10:30 - 11:00
Lunchtime 12:00 - 13:00
End of day 15:00 - 15:15

Registration 08:45 - 09:00
Assembly 10:00 - 10:15
Playtime 10:15 - 10:30
Phonics/Guided reading 10:30 - 11:00
Lunchtime 12:00 - 13:00
End of day 15:00 - 15:15

Registration 08:45 - 09:00
Thinking skills 10:00 - 10:15
Playtime 10:15 - 10:30
Phonics/Guided reading 10:30 - 11:00
Lunchtime 12:00 - 13:00
End of day 15:00 - 15:15

Special Mention /

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Find lessons
Planners

View mode
Class User

Dale French (Me)
Al Ritchie (Admin)
Al Ritchie (SLT)
Al Ritchie (Teacher)
Alex Hickton
Amy McCaw
Andy Copson (school admin)
Babs S
Cat School admin
Catherine Scutt
Daisy Timms
Gary Wood

Find lessons
Planners

By Subject By stage

Falcones (5)
Investigating Our World
The world Develop 1

Lesson 1: Time zones
Y5 Geography

Lesson 2: Climate zones
Y5 Geography

Lesson 3: Vegetation
Y5 Geography

Lesson 4: Biomes
Y5 Geography

Lesson 5: Human geography...
Y5 Geography

Professional judgement

Teachers' creativity, knowledge and professional judgement are maintained and valued, with teachers able to make the important decisions about what to teach and how using Maestro's clever planning tools. Teachers can even build their own curriculum projects to add a more localised dimension to your curriculum.

Teaching resources

Research-informed teaching resources provide everything teachers need to present important information and knowledge of the curriculum and are specifically matched to individual lessons. These best-quality resources support teachers to confidently teach the concepts, knowledge and skills of the curriculum.

Lesson 1: Time zones

Year 5 Project Investigating Our World

Develop 1 Geography lesson covering Geographical resources and Location, focusing on the World

Planned for **Tue, Mar 3, 2026 11:05 AM**

Lesson Skills & Knowledge

Lesson brief

Show the children the [Time zones video](#) on BBC Bitesize to introduce the children to time zones. Talk about the video, including why Earth has time zones, and address any misconceptions, if necessary. Show the [Time zones presentation](#) to explain how time zones are calculated. Use the information to prompt discussion and questioning and encourage the children to calculate time zones worldwide. To consolidate their understanding, ask children to work in pairs to complete the [Time zones question sheet](#) using the [Time zones map](#) to help. At the end of the session, mark the children's work collectively.

Practical resources

- Globe (optional)

My teaching notes

Press Add to include notes specific to this lesson

Skills

In this lesson children will:

- Analyse and compare a place, or places, using aerial photographs, atlases and maps.
- Identify the location and explain the function of the Prime (or Greenwich) Meridian and different time zones (including day and night).

Knowledge

By the end of this lesson children should know:

- People use map symbols, six-figure grid references and compass directions to analyse and compare places and features on Ordnance Survey and other maps.
- The Prime (or Greenwich) Meridian is an imaginary line that divides the Earth into eastern and western hemispheres.
- The time at Greenwich is called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
- Each time zone that is 15 degrees to the west of Greenwich is another hour earlier than GMT.
- Each time zone 15 degrees to the east is another hour later.

Additional information

Time zones

Answer the questions about time zones.

- What is the Prime Meridian?
- Where is the Prime Meridian located?
- What does GMT stand for?
- How are time in other countries calculated?
- Each country only ever has one time zone. True or False?

True
 False

Explain your answer:

Time zones

* This map is simplified and shows approximate time zones.

Time zones

Each meridian is the centre of a time zone. There are 24 time zones because there are 24 hours in a day.

WHAT SCHOOLS SAY

‘Cornerstones has been **beyond supportive** to us in the initial stages of launch and thereafter, as well as helping teachers who may not be familiar with the English National Curriculum to effectively plan and deliver lessons that meet curriculum standards while also being culturally responsive.’

Deputy Head of Primary
Gems Founders Al Mizhar



‘The **theory of the project is fantastic**. They link well with the National Curriculum, and **children loved the project approach**, along with a good motivator at the beginning of the unit, for its intended lessons. The knowledge organisers are also great.’

Year 2 Teacher
Sherborne Qatar Prep School





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To find out more and to book your free online demonstration
visit www.cornerstoneseducation.co.uk or contact us using the
information provided below.

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