North America

Geography Knowledge Organiser: Place knowledge

I already know...

- The difference between physical and human geography
- What a climate is
- What a capital city is

Vocabulary

Climate zone – an area of the world with similar long-term weather patterns.

Physical feature – a natural feature of the Earth, such as a mountain or river.

Human feature – a feature created or built by people, such as a city or road.

Capital city – the city where a country's government is based.

Population – the number of people living in a place.

Settlement – a place where people live.

Time zone – a region of the world that shares the same local time.

Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) – the time at the Prime (Greenwich) Meridian, used as the starting point for world time.

Prime (Greenwich) Meridian – the 0° line of longitude used to measure time zones.

Influence – to have an effect on something, such as how geography affects where people live and work.

Location

North America is a **continent** in the Northern Hemisphere.



Key questions

- Where is North America located?
- Why does North America have different climate zones?
- What is the difference between physical and human features?
- Is the capital city always the largest city?
- Why does North America have more than one time zone?
- How does geography shape life in a country?
- What similarities and differences can be found between two regions?

Key information

- It includes **23 countries**, such as Canada, the United States, Mexico and countries in Central America and the Caribbean.
- North America stretches from the Arctic in the north to tropical regions in the south. Because of its size, it has many different **climate zones**.
- North America is **bordered by** the Arctic Ocean to the north, the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Geographical skills

Identifying **cause** and **effect,** e.g.:

Tropical climate	Mountainous landscape
↓	↓
warm weather and rainfall	steep land
↓	↓
crops such as bananas can grow	fewer large cities inland
↓	↓
many people work in farming.	more people live near coast.