



Lesson Series

1. Introduction to the South East (Counties)
2. London
3. Canterbury
4. Brighton
5. Dover
6. Assessment

National Curriculum Coverage

Locational and Place Knowledge

- Name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time

What you need to know

- Geographically, London is in the South East of England. For statistical purposes it is often counted as its own region, whilst the other counties of the South East are grouped together.
- The counties in the South East of England include; Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex, Kent, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Isle of Wight
- Some key physical features of the South East include; the famous White Cliffs of Dover, River Thames, South Downs.
- Some key human features of the South East include; the London Underground, Brighton Pier, Canterbury Cathedral. London is the capital of England. The River Thames runs through London. Large cities such as London are forever changing and developing.
- Human features are key landmarks, areas of interest or key historical sites (such as ruins) for example, The London Eye, Shakespeare's Globe. The Thames is key in London's vast and ever-changing backdrop as it was the reason the first settlement were made. The river has been a source of transport, which has allowed mobility and trade to grow throughout history.
- Canterbury: Canterbury is a historic English cathedral city and UNESCO World Heritage Site, which lies at the heart of the City of Canterbury, a local government district of Kent, England. Canterbury is known for its extraordinary history and ecclesiastical grandeur. Canterbury is a popular tourist destination as it is consistently one of the most-visited cities in the United Kingdom, therefore the city's economy is heavily reliant upon tourism. Consequently, Canterbury remains, however, a small city in terms of geographical size and population, when compared with other British cities. The population of Canterbury was 55,240 (2011) and the main river is the River Stour (Great Stour).
- Brighton: The history of Brighton began with a small Saxon village called Beorhelm's Tun (Beorhelm's farm or village) in the 5th century. The ancient settlement of "Brighthelmstone" was documented in the Domesday Book (1086). Brighton has a temperate climate. It is characterised by mild, calm weather with high levels of sunshine, sea breezes and a "healthy, bracing air" attributed to the low level of tree cover. Average rainfall levels increase as the land rises.
- Dover: Dover is a town and major ferry port. It faces France at the narrowest part of the English Channel (the Strait of Dover). It lies to the south-east of Canterbury and north-east of Brighton. The name of the town derives from the River Dour. According to archaeological finds, Dover has been inhabited since the Stone Age. The White Cliffs of Dover stretch along eight miles of Dover's coastline and at their highest are 350 feet tall. The site of the original Dover settlement lies in the valley of the River Dour which makes it an ideal place for a port because it is sheltered from south-westerly winds. People have lived in Dover since the Stone Age and archaeologists have found evidence to show that it had maritime importance throughout both the Bronze and Iron Ages.



Teacher Knowledge

Geographically, London is in the South East of England. As it is a capital city, and very densely populated region, it is often considered a region in its own right. The counties in the South East of England include; Surrey, East Sussex, West Sussex, Kent, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Isle of Wight. The main city in the South East of England is London, which is also the capital city of the UK. The South East of England is more densely populated than any other part of England. Alongside its proximity to London, the region itself has a growing population of over eight and a half million people. This has led to the South East becoming one of the largest economic hubs in England, particularly due to its major motorway links. Each county is popular with tourists due to the vast varied open landscapes, shops and businesses, historical towns and cities.

Knowledge Objective

To identify the region of South Eastern England on a map of the UK.

Knowledge Goals

The South East is an area of England.

London is a large region located in the South East of England.

The River Thames runs through the South East of England.

Lesson Detail

Prior Learning: *What do we know about England? Recap UK units from Year 1 and 2. Recap countries of the UK and Union Jack.*

Vocabulary: Introduce the word 'region'. Explain that this means an area of a country. Give some locally relevant examples. Recap the difference between country and county. Explain that regions are not always precise, sometimes we are being general when we describe a region.

Teach: Locate the South East of a map of the UK. Look at counties of the South East on page 9 of the Oxford Schools Atlas. Tell children that the major city in the South East is London and that it is also the capital city. Locate the different counties within the South East. Introduce key places in the South East of England, for example The River Thames, Canterbury Cathedral, White Cliffs of Dover, and the South Downs. Show images.

Talk task: Use the map on page 9 of the Oxford Schools Atlas to locate the cities and towns that are in each county in the South East. Take note of any other geographical features such as rivers and coastlines.

Task: Annotate a map of the South East of England.

Partner teach/Plenary: *What can you tell me about the South East?* Children share and add to the working wall.

Step for Depth: *Why are there often towns located along major rivers?*

Vocabulary

- eastern
- region
- county
- city
- London
- Surrey
- West Sussex
- Kent

Suggested Resources

Atlases, blank map of the South of England.



Teacher Knowledge

The city of London is the capital of the United Kingdom. It is one of the most populated cities in the world and is known as a conurbation. This means that it is a large area including several different cities or large towns that have grown so much that they are now connected to each other. The city's history dates back to Roman times when it was called Londinium. The River Thames has always played an important role in the city's history.

The Romans needed a port that would be suitable for ocean-going ships, but that would be located far enough in-land to be safe from Germanic raiders. They established London and built wharfs and jetties to allow ships to dock and load or unload goods. Over time, London rose and fell in importance and has a rich history of conflict, development and change. Modern London is a busy, bustling city, with a population of around 9 million people. Major landmarks include the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, the London Eye and the Shard.

Knowledge Objective

To know that the River Thames has played an important role in the history of London.

Knowledge Goals

The Romans built London as a useful port for trading.

The River Thames was deep enough for Roman ships.

London's population continues to grow.

Lesson Detail

Prior Learning: Name some key places in the South East of England. Recap what geographers mean by human and physical features.

Vocabulary: Introduce key locations with images. Some may be familiar to children. Discuss those they recognise but also focus on oral rehearsal of the names of unfamiliar places.

Teach: Explain that London is a region in itself, located in the South East of England. Show a map of London. Show images of The Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, The Shard. Explain these are human features of London. Show the Thames, Hyde Park, and Hampstead Heath. Explain that London was founded by the Romans *in 50CE*. They decided that the water in the Thames in this location was deep enough for ships, but was far enough inland that raiders would not venture there. London, or Londinium, was an important Roman port. The Romans built wharves from wood to allow ships to dock and unload their wares. Grain and metal were exported and wine, pottery, silk and ivory were imported. (Link to Year 3 trade in Western Europe- import/export.) Wealthy Romans would have built homes from stone, the less wealthy would have built homes from wood. Explain that over the years London has grown and grown, it now has roads, an underground train network, major landmarks such as the Houses of Parliament. People often move to London for work, particularly in jobs in the City which is the name of the financial heart of London. Emphasise that the geography and history of London are interconnected; the river Thames created an ideal location for the Romans to build a city.

Talk task: *Why did the Romans build London?*

Task: Why is the River Thames important to the history of London?

Partner teach/Plenary: *Why is trade an important part of London's history?*

Step for Depth: *If you were planning to build a city, what would you need to think about?*

Vocabulary

- Thames
- London
- City
- Romans
- Port
- Trade

Suggested Resources

Images of London. Map of London



Teacher Knowledge

Canterbury is a historic English cathedral city and UNESCO World Heritage Site, which lies at the heart of the City of Canterbury, a local government district of Kent, England. Canterbury is known for its extraordinary history and the grandeur of its religious buildings. Canterbury is a popular tourist destination as it is consistently one of the most-visited cities in the United Kingdom, therefore the city's economy is heavily reliant upon tourism. Canterbury remains, however, a small city in terms of geographical size and population, when compared with other British cities. The population of Canterbury was 55,240 (2011) and the main river is the River Stour (Great Stour).

Knowledge Objective

To know that Canterbury is a historical city in the South East of England.

Knowledge Goals

The river running through Canterbury is the River Stour.

Canterbury is a key historical place with a rich history.

Many tourists visit Canterbury.

Lesson Detail

Prior Learning: *What do we know about the South East of England?* Check KO.

Vocabulary: Cathedral: A Cathedral is an important religious building in the Christian religion. It is run by a Bishop. Link to Year 3 Law and Power in History.

Teach: Introduce Canterbury. Canterbury is a historic English cathedral city and UNESCO World Heritage Site, which lies at the heart of the City of Canterbury, a local government district of Kent, England. Canterbury is known for its extraordinary history and its beautiful cathedral. Show map of Canterbury – where is it in relation to London? Link to Year 3- Law and Power. Thomas Becket and Henry II. (If children have not studied this unit, explain the significance of Thomas Becket) Show video (see resources). Discuss what it means for a place to have a ‘rich history’. Explain that over 500 years ago, a man called Geoffrey Chaucer wrote a famous book called The Canterbury Tales. It told 24 stories about people who travelled to Canterbury to visit a shrine dedicated to Thomas Becket. It was written in Middle English, an old version of our language. It is famous because although the characters are fictional, they reveal lots about how people lived. No other author of the time had written about so many different characters, both rich and poor.

Talk task: *Why might tourists want to visit Canterbury Cathedral?*

Task: Label a map showing the River Stour and Canterbury. Explain why many tourists visit Canterbury.

Partner teach/Plenary: *What are some key features of Canterbury?*

Step for Depth: *When people say a place has a ‘rich history’, what do they mean? Give some examples from places you know about. (e.g. London, or locally relevant place)*

Vocabulary

- Canterbury
- population
- cathedral
- heritage
- River Stour

Suggested Resources

<https://www.visitbritain.com/gb/en/england/southeast/canterbury> (including short video clip)



Teacher Knowledge

The history of Brighton began with a small Saxon village called Beorhelm's Tun (Beorhelm's farm or village) in the 5th century. The ancient settlement of "Brighthelmstone" was documented in the Domesday Book (1086). Brighton has a temperate climate. It is characterised by mild, calm weather with high levels of sunshine and sea breezes. Average rainfall levels increase as the land rises. Brighton has a pebble beach that is popular with tourists. Brighton is a convenient distance from London and has been popular as a day-trip destination for Londoners for many years. Brighton Palace Pier is a key landmark in Brighton. A pier is a raised structure in a body of water. Brighton Palace Pier has been a popular tourist destination since it opened in 1899 and now contains amusements, fairground rides and roller coasters. At night, 67,000 bulbs light up the pier. King George IV built a pavilion in Brighton as a pleasure palace for him to visit and he styled it on Indian and Chinese architecture.

Knowledge Objective

To know that Brighton is a seaside town in the South of England.

Knowledge Goals

Brighton is a seaside town, popular with tourists.

Brighton Palace Pier stretches into the sea.

Brighton Pavilion is known for its architecture.

Lesson Detail

Prior Learning Assessment: Use KO to recap information about London and the South East of England. Can pupils recall key place names? *What do we know about London and the South East of England?*

Vocabulary: Introduce the word 'pier' meaning a structure built by people that sits above a body of water. Show some examples. Explain that piers were fashionable in the Victorian times when people would go on holiday to British seaside towns.

Teach: Locate Brighton on a map of the South East. Explain that Brighton has been popular with tourists for many years because the weather is often sunny and there is a long pebble beach. Show image of Brighton Pavilion, built by King George IV and styled on Indian and Chinese architecture. Explain this is a key human feature of Brighton and a popular tourist location. Explain that many people travel from London to Brighton for day trips as it is well connected by train lines. Show image of Brighton Palace Pier. Explain that the pier was built during Victorian times for tourists to visit. It now contains fairground rides, and even a roller coaster.

Talk task: *What would we see if we visited Brighton?*

Task: Describe the key features of Brighton. This could include a labelled map, including the beach, stations, the pavilion and the pier. Children may want to add a sketch of Brighton Palace Pier and explain what a pier is.

Partner teach/Plenary: *Why is Brighton a popular tourist destination?*

Step for Depth: *Why might local businesses want to attract tourists?*

Vocabulary

- Pier
- Coast
- Brighton
- population
- beach
- coastal

Suggested Resources

<https://dams-brightonmuseums.org.uk/assetbank-pavilion/action/browseItems?categoryId=1460&categoryType=1>

<https://dams-brightonmuseums.org.uk/assetbank-pavilion/action/browseItems?categoryId=1760&categoryType=1>



Teacher Knowledge

Dover is a town and major ferry port. It faces France at the narrowest part of the English Channel (the Strait of Dover). It lies to the south-east of Canterbury and north-east of Brighton. The name of the town derives from the River Dour. According to archaeological finds, Dover has been inhabited since the Stone Age. The White Cliffs of Dover stretch along eight miles of Dover's coastline and at their highest are 350 feet tall. The site of the original Dover settlement lies in the valley of the River Dour which makes it an ideal place for a port because it is sheltered from south-westerly winds. People have lived in Dover since the Stone Age and archaeologists have found evidence to show that it had maritime importance throughout both the Bronze and Iron Ages. The cliffs are located at one end of the Kent Downs.

Knowledge Objective

To identify key features of Dover.

Lesson Detail

Prior Learning: A tourist from France has come to the South East of England. *Where should they visit and what would they see there?*

Vocabulary: Clarify understanding of 'coastline'; the line that shows where land meets sea. Explain that a cliff is a steep rock edge, known as a 'rock face', often at the point where land meets sea.

Teach: Locate Dover on a map of the South East. Explain it is a port, ships dock here to load and unload cargo. People can travel by ferry from Dover to France and beyond. Explain that the 'white cliffs of Dover' are famous because you can see them when you approach South Eastern England from the sea, if you were journeying across the English Channel and saw the cliffs, you'd know you were nearly home. The cliffs are white because the rock they are made from is chalk. The chalk at Dover is actually the ancient skeletal remains of sea algae that over millions of years, sank to the bottom of the sea, mixed with other remains of sea creatures and created the white chalk we see today. We can see the white of the chalk because of erosion, the rock is eroded naturally by the wind, rain and sea. Where the rock is protected, plants grow and cover the white chalk. Locate the White Cliffs of Dover and identify the 'Kent Downs'. Identify the Strait of Dover (the narrowest part of the English Channel) and locate France.

Talk task: *Why are the cliffs at Dover white?*

Task: Describe the key features of Dover. Children should annotate a map, identify the port of Dover and explain what the function of a port is. They might like to draw a diagram of the white cliffs of Dover and write a short description of this physical feature.

Partner teach/Plenary: *Why are the White cliffs of Dover such a famous landmark?*

Step for Depth: Use an atlas and your knowledge of map scale, how wide is the Strait of Dover (narrowest part of the English Channel?)
Additional optional content: Share the lyrics (and a recording if possible) of the famous song 'The White Cliffs of Dover'. Explain that at the time it was written, England was at war with Germany. (Pupils will study this in Year 6) the planes of the Royal Air Force had been fighting the German air force over the South Coast of England. This song tells of a time when peace has returned.

Vocabulary

- Dover
- cliffs
- coastline
- weathering

Knowledge Goals

Dover is a town and major ferry port.

Dover faces France at the narrowest part of the English Channel (the Strait of Dover).

The White Cliffs of Dover are a famous physical feature of the South Eastern coast of England.

Suggested Resources

Map of Dover, images of the white cliffs of Dover. Lyrics to (there will be bluebirds over) the White Cliffs of Dover written by Walter Kent and Nat Burton



Teacher Knowledge

Knowledge Objective

To demonstrate knowledge of the South East of England.

Lesson Detail

Knowledge Organiser: Blank out sections of the knowledge organiser for children to fill in. For example, leave a key word but blank out the definition and vice versa.

Multiple Choice Quiz: Children complete the MCQ and mark their own immediately afterwards to provide instant feedback.

Extended Writing Task:

What would a geographer say about London and the South East of England?

Include:

A map

Sketches

Descriptions of each place (using geographical language)

Vocabulary

- London
- Canterbury
- Brighton
- Dover
- features
- south
- east

Knowledge Goals

All previously covered.

Suggested Resources