



Year: Year 5

Subject: Geography

Title: The Grand Canyon

What key knowledge do I need to have before this unit?

Year 1 Around the world: locate the seven continents on a world map and recognise some Human and Physical features of countries.

Year 2 The Arctic: Recognise human features of cities.

Year 3 Rainforests: use line graphs and bar charts to explore the climate of rainforests.

Year 4 Countries of the World: Name the seven continents and describe some of the different climate zones.

Key outcomes:

What I need to know by the end of this unit of work:

- I can locate the Grand Canyon on a map and identify key features.
- I understand how the Grand Canyon was formed.
- I know about the different biomes found in the Grand Canyon.
- I can recognise the ways the Grand Canyon is used by humans and how this has changed it.
- I can describe the human and physical geographic features of the Grand Canyon.

Key knowledge:

Key Vocabulary:

Definition:

The Grand Canyon is a huge, steep-sided canyon on the Colorado Plateau (a huge, rocky area in the North of Arizona - over a thousand metres higher than surrounding areas).

Geologists have learned about how the Colorado Plateau was formed by studying the rocks. Around 20 million years ago, the plateau was pushed up by the movement of the tectonic plates underneath.

Erosion of the Grand Canyon occurs through the river which gradually wears away the rock of the river bed, rainfall which washes loose rock, mud, sand and soil down the canyon sides to the river, where it is further broken down and washed away.

The rim of the Grand Canyon and the river corridor at the bottom have completely different biomes. Biomes are ecosystems with plants and animals living in them that are adapted to the climate and other conditions of the area.

Tourism to the Grand Canyon has many benefits for those who visit, local people and the environment. For example tourism to the area can provide jobs and money to the local area

The Havasupai have lived in and around the Grand Canyon for at least 800 years.

Latitude

Latitude lines are geographical coordinates that are used to specify the north and south sides of the Earth.

Longitude

Longitude geographical coordinates that are used to determine the east and west points on the Earth's surface.

Erosion

Erosion is a geological process in which natural materials are worn away and transported by environmental features such as wind and water.

Biomes

Biomes are areas of the planet with similar climates, landscapes, animals and plants.

Climate

The weather found in a certain place over a long period of time is known as the climate.

Physical geography

Physical geography is the study of the Earth's natural features, such as mountains, rivers, deserts and oceans.

Human Geography

Human geography relates only to the human environment; something that is built by humans and would not have existed in nature without humans.