

Year 3 Spring Term Knowledge Organiser

KEY QUESTION: How do Europe and Asia change as you travel east?

Journeys Vocabulary

Prime Meridian	Time zones	Steppe	Biome	Land use
Greenwich Mean Time	Hemispheres	Lake	Physical geography	Human geography
Europe	Latitude	Desert	Natural resources	Population
Asia	Longitude	Plains	Mountains	Atlas
Globe	journey	transport	railway	climate



We will be exploring...

The Eurasian steppe

A steppe is a dry, grassy plain. Steppes occur in temperate climates, which lie between the tropics and polar regions. Temperate regions have distinct seasonal temperature changes, with cold winters and warm summers.



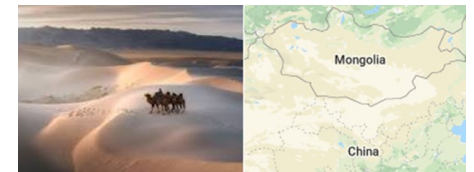
The Ural Mountains

A mountain range that runs approximately from north to south through western Russia, from the coast of the Arctic Ocean to the Ural River. The mountain range forms part of the boundary between the continents of Europe and Asia.



The Gobi Desert

is a vast, arid region in northern China and southern Mongolia. It's known for its dunes, mountains and rare animals such as snow leopards and Bactrian camels.



1837: Russia's first passenger railway opens

1857: Tsar Alexander II orders a rail network to be built across Russia.

1876: China's first railroad is built.

1886: Tsar Alexander III approves the Trans-Siberian railway.

1901: The tracks meet.
1903: Regular traffic begins

1905: The full continuous route opens

1916: Construction continues throughout the Russian empire.

An **ecosystem** is a system of plants and animals which are interconnected and working together. Some ecosystems are found under a stone or in a pond and are very small, whereas others are very large and cover the majority of a continent.

An ecosystem covering a large area of a continent is called a **biome**.

There are 7 main biomes in the world: alpine chaparral, deciduous forest, desert, savanna, taiga and tundra.

alpine	Colder climates found at high altitudes in mountain ranges. Populated with coniferous trees such as firs and pines.
chaparral	Hot and dry like a desert, but has more rain and therefore more plants and animals, including yucca, trees and cacti, coyotes, deer, lizards and jack rabbits.
deciduous forest	Warm, wet and mild areas and dominated by deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in the autumn).
desert	Deserts are dry; less than 25cm rain per year. They can be hot and sandy or cold and icy. Both hot and cold deserts can support life as long as it is well adapted, such as cacti and silver ants in hot deserts, and penguins in cold deserts.

savanna	This is a mixture of grasslands and woodland. There are some trees but they are spread out enough to allow the sunlight to reach the ground and grasses in between. Animals that live here include zebras, giraffes and lions.
taiga	Very wet and cold, receiving plenty of snow during the winter. Coniferous trees are evergreen and remain green all year round. The soil is not very nutritious and therefore, the variety of vegetation is limited.
tundra	Cold, harsh and difficult for much vegetation to survive. Found at the top of mountains and the Poles. These areas are snow-covered and all life here is very hardy, including mosses, birds and mountain goats.

Activities to complete at home

1. Imagine you a travel blogger. Write a diary or create a blog to describe your experiences as you travel through Siberia.
2. Get creative!! Draw or make a model of famous buildings that you might see in Moscow, Vladivostok or Beijing.
3. Bake your own Trans-Siberian biscuits. They could be train-shaped. Or they could have some of the countries' flags on. Write your recipe for someone to follow!
4. Choose a country a long the route and create a fact-file. *You could include info about its capital city, flag, currency, landmarks as well as describing the climate and famous people who have come from the country.*

