

Key Question: What is Italy like as a country to live in?

Geography - Year 3

Knowledge organiser

Teaching focus: Place knowledge—a region in a European country

Learning Lens: Place and location

Previous Knowledge

There are seven continents and Europe is one of them.
 Knowledge of Kavuka in Kenya and their local area—Kings Stanley.
 An understanding of the terminology of climate and weather.

Project Hook or ‘Wow’ memory

Taste different types of Italian food and experience a day in Italy through the sights, sounds and arts.

The key skills we want pupils to use during this topic:

Locational Knowledge: Use maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia) concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities.

Place Knowledge: Understand geographical similarities and differences through the study of human and physical geography of a region in a European country.

Human geography: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water.

Learning Steps

Key Knowledge (answers)

What are the physical features of Italy?	Italy is a peninsular in the Mediterranean Sea. It is approx 1,130 km long and has a total area of approx 301,238 square km . It is mostly mountainous with ranges over 700 metres covering a third of the country. The best known are the Alps, the Dolomites and the Apennines. There are about 1500 lakes with the most famous being: Lakes Garda, Maggiore, Como, Iseo, and Lugano. There are over a thousand rivers and streams. Major rivers - the Po River, the Tiber, Arno, Reno, and Adige Rivers. There are four active volcanoes: Etna, Vesuvius, Stomboli and Vulcano.
Where is Italy in the world? Who are its neighbours?	Italy is part of Europe. It has land borders with Switzerland, France, Austria and Slovenia. It has two independent countries within its borders. Vatican City and San Marino. To the north west is the Ligurian sea, to the west and south west the Tyrrhenian sea, to the south and south east is the Ionian sea and to the east is the Adriatic sea.
What are the regions? How different or similar are they?	Italy is a republic with 20 regions. There are 15 ordinary regions called: Piedmont, Lombardy, Veneto, Liguria, Emilia , Umbria, Marche, Lazio, Abruzzo, Molise, Campania, Puglia, Basilicata, Tuscany and Calabria. Plus 5 special regions called: Sicily, Sardinia, Trentino–Alto Adige, Friuli–Venezia Giulia, and Valle d’Aosta. There are many similarities and differences.
What is different or similar about the seven major cities in Italy?	The cities are: Aosta, Florence, Milan, Naples, Palermo, Rome and Venice. Venice- tourist city built around canals. Rome - capital of Italy and an ancient city. The economic stability of Sicily is based on Palermo. Naples— 3rd largest city and capital of the south. Milan - 2nd largest city and capital of the north. Florence— one of the best economies and is located in Tuscany. Aosta— founded by the Romans in 25BC and is very close to Mont Blanc tunnel with easy access to France.
What is the city of Bologna like?	Bologna is the capital city of the Emilia Romagna Region in Northern Italy. Bologna is one of the richest cities due to its economy, architecture and cultures. Bologna is a Portico city, at the foothills of the Apennines and you can see the Alps on a clear day.
What is everyday life like for children in Bologna?	The activities that the children take part in reflect the Mediterranean climate of Italy. The children are Year 5 at the International School of Bologna.

Key vocabulary

Architecture	The art and science behind designing buildings for their beauty.
Capoluogo	The capital of a region.
Cultures	The characteristics and knowledge, beliefs, arts, laws and customs of a group of people.
Economy	The system according to which the money, industry, and trade of a country or region are organised.
Peninsular	a long piece of land that sticks out from a larger area of land into the sea or into a lake.
Portico	Covered walkways
Region	An area of land that has common features.

Final Written Outcome

Create a fact sheet or PowerPoint about life in Italy.

Make a poster about life in Italy.

