North America Knowledge Organiser – Year 6

	Key question				
Why do people visit North America?					
Key skills					
Human and physical geography	To create their own scaled map of the school by measuring and making it 100× smaller.				
Fieldwork	Ask geographical questions: How is traffic controlled? What are the main problems?				
	Identify parking problems (at school at peak times).				
	Compare traffic flows at different times of the day.				
	Undertake a traffic survey of the local main road- Tally counting and producing graphs to show the types of vehicles used.				
	Undertake a noise survey on the main village road.				
	Form and develop opinions- Do you agree with the level of traffic? What changes could you make to improve the traffic environment?				
	Report on the impact of the traffic on the local and global environment. Link to global warming.				
	Use knowledge of the local area to suggest improvements to parking/ traffic issues.				
Location and place	Locate the key physical and human characteristics. Relate these features to the locality. E.g. population sizes near rivers/ landmarks/ transport links.				
knowledge	Locate the main historically significant landmarks in the USA				
	Use maps to identify lines of longitude and latitude and discuss their significance.				
	Describe the climates of different countries (states) and relate this to prior knowledge of the Equator and the tropics, and recently acquired knowledge of				
	longitude and latitude.				
	Locate major cities of the world (USA) and discuss their similarities and differences, drawing on evidence.				
	Select the most appropriate map for different purposes. E.g. globe/atlas to find a country, digital mapping to find a village.				
	Use 6 figure grid references to identify the states and significant cities in North America.				





	Key vocabulary	Definition
Tier 1	map	A drawing of the Earth's surface or part of it.
	survey	A data collection tool in which a list of questions is used to gather information.
	grid references	A location on a map, which is found using the northing and easting numbered lines.
country land that is control		land that is controlled by a single government.
	continent	A large continuous landmass, separated from other continents by water or other geographical features.
	population	The number of people living in a certain place.
Tier 2	scaled	The ratio that defines the relation between the actual size and how it is represented on a map
	state	An association which has control over a geographic area or territory.
	physical geography	The study of the Earth's natural features, such as mountains, rivers, deserts and oceans.
	human geography	The study of where people live, what they do, and how they use the land.
	capital city	A city where the central government of a country is.
Tier 3	eastings	The vertical lines running from the top to bottom and divide the map from west to east
	northings	The horizontal lines that divide the map from north to south
	longitude	The lines of longitude are perpendicular to the lines of latitude. All lines of longitude run through both the North and South Poles.
	latitude	The lines of latitude are parallel to the equator. They run east to west.

Etymology			
Jamaica	The name 'Jamaica' comes from the word 'Xaymaca' meaning 'the land of wood and water'. The island was given by its first		
	inhabitants the Arawaks.		
Canada	The name 'Canada' comes from the word 'Kanata' meaning 'settlement'.		

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Physical Geography				
Major mountain ranges	The Appalachian Mountains The Rocky Mountains The Sierra Nevada Tallest mountain: Denali/Mount			
Major rivers	McKinley (6,190m) in Alaska Missouri River – 3767km Mississippi – 3,766km Yukon River – 3,190km			
Largest deserts	Chihuahuan Desert The Great Basin Desert Mojave Desert Sonoran Desert			
Largest forests	Tongass National Forest, Alaska Chugach National Forest, Alaska Hunboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Nevada and California			
Longest beaches	Padre Island National Seashore, USA Grand Strand, USA Playa Novillero, Mexico			
Major waterfalls	Yosemite Falls Niagara Falls			
Largest National Parks	Wrangell-St Elias National Park, Alaska			
Largest lakes	Lake Superior Lake Huron Lake Michigan			









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Human Geography				
Most populated country	United States – 321.2 million Mexico – 121 million Canada 35.8 million			
Least populated country	St Kitts – 53,532 Dominca – 77,145 Antigua – 88,665			
Most populated city	Mexico City – 12,294,193 New York City – 8,175,133 Los Angeles – 3,971,883			
Most populated state in USA	California - 39,368,078 Texas – 29,360,759 Florida – 21,733,312			
Least populated state in USA	Wyoming – 582,328 Vermont – 623,347 District of Colombia – 712,816			
Tallest building	CN Tower – 553m One World Trade Center – 541m, 546m to tip			





