



What is Britain?

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



1. Rationale

What is Britain?

An introduction to the cultural, geological, historical and political makeup of the British Isles. The content assumes no prior knowledge as this is often the case. The intent is for students to begin to develop a geographical understanding of the British Isles at a variety of scales. We begin by differentiating Britain, The UK and British Isles with Physical features that interleaves with KS4. We then embark on a journey of Britain through history – earth history, that has been 4 billion years in the making.

2. Key terms for the MAP SKILLS topic

1.	Britain	The largest island of the British Isles that includes England, Scotland & Wales. It is a Physical Geography term.
2.	United Kingdom (UK)	A political term for England, Scotland, Wales & Northern Ireland.
3.	British Isles	A collective term for 6289 Islands of the Coast of Northern Europe governed by the UK & The Republic of Ireland.
4.	Relief	Relief refers to the way the landscape changes in height. Upland areas are high above sea level.
5.	Lustre	How a rock reflects light e.g. shiny, dull, metallic like tinfoil.
6.	Texture	The makeup of a rock according to the sizes of its minerals – coarse, medium or fine.
7.	Mohs Scale	A test to see how hard a mineral is by its resistance to scratching. Ranges from 10 hardest to 1 softest. The human fingernail is 2.5 on the scale.
8.	Cave	a natural underground chamber.
9.	Cavern	a large cave or chamber in a cave.
10.	Stalactite	a tapering structure hanging like an icicle from the roof of a cave, formed of calcium salts deposited by dripping water.
11.	Stalagmite	a mound or tapering column rising from the floor of a cave, formed of calcium salts deposited by dripping water and often uniting with a stalactite.
12.	Pillar	Where a Stalactite and Stalagmite meet.
13.	Flowstone	rock deposited as a thin sheet by precipitation from flowing water.
14.	Speleologist	A Geologist whose job it is to find and study rare rocks and minerals that can be mined for profit.
15.	Swallow Hole	A natural hole in the Earth's surface, also known as a sinkhole where a stream descends underground.
16.	Resurgence	Where an underground stream re-emerges at the earth's surface.
17.	Joint	A vertical break within a rock that allows water to penetrate
18.	Bedding Plain	The horizontal line that separates two rock types.
19.	Impermeable	Rock that does not water enter or pass through it. The opposite is Permeable.
20.	Hypothermia	The effects of extreme cold on the human body leading to severe trauma and possibly death
21.	Aboriginal	A member of the indigenous or earliest known population of a region
22.	Migration	Migration is the movement of people from one permanent home to another
23.	Immigrant	The term applied to people who have moved into another country
24.	Push Factor	Push factors "push" people away from their home and include things like war. The reasons people migrate are usually economic, political, cultural, or environmental.
25.	Pull Factor	Pull factors "pull" people to a new home and include things like better opportunities.
26.	Urban	An urban area is the region surrounding a city. Urban areas are very developed, meaning there is a density of human structures such as houses, commercial buildings, roads, bridges, and railways.
27.	Rural	A rural area in the UK is defined as an area with a population of less than 10,000 people. A rural area is usually defined as one that is relatively sparsely populated and either left as wilderness or with farming as a major economic activity. We often describe rural areas as countryside.

3. Links to GCSE

1.	Physical and Human Geography of Britain from a Map context
2.	Migration with Push & Pull factors for Urban Issues and Challenges
3.	OS Map skills

4. Command words

1.	Identify
2.	Explain
3.	Describe