Year 9
Subject: Geography
Topic/Unit: Diverse Asia
When: HT 2

Huntington School
Learn and succeed

Overview: This unit encourages pupils to deepen their locational and spatial awareness of Asia. Students explore environmental regions in Asia to appreciate the variety of locations in this continent. They consider key physical and human characteristics and are taught to make links between them. The unit consists of a study of Russia and the Middle East as two contrasting locations each with significant diversity of people on the same continent to appreciate the key opportunities and challenges in each place.

Why this? Why now? It is important for students to recognise that there is not just one type of landscape or community in Asia. This huge continent is varied, and the misconceptions need to be dispelled. This unit takes the concepts of globalisation, introduced in Year 7 and built on in Year 8 and shows them that this region drives the modern world's economy, environment, and population trends. Understanding Asia helps students make sense of global current affairs and prepares them for life in an interconnected world.

Building on…building to: In Year 8 HT 3 students learned about population and the key processes involved in migration – this unit considers the reasons for population density differences in this vast continent. In HT 6 they learned about issues surrounding sustainability which this builds on and relates it to an extreme living environment which they learned about in HT5. Ideas of biomes are further explored at the end on Year 9 in HT5 and 6 where the reason for different physical locations are covered in more detail. It sets the scene for the considerations of opportunities and challenges which are a foundation of the KS4 human geography curriculum.

Sequence summary:

- Human and physical diversity in Asia
- How the physical Geography of Russia makes them prisoners of geography
- The importance of Russia to the rest of the world
- The physical geography and the people of the Middle East
- Linking climate change to resources – running out of water and its relationship to food supply
- The importance of the Middle East to the rest of the world
- Is Dubai a sustainable city?

Key Vocabulary:

- Prisoner of geography - a geopolitical concept stating that a country's geographic features—such as mountains, rivers, seas, and deserts—largely dictate its political power and economic success
- Sustainable city - an urban area designed to minimize its environmental impact while maximizing economic viability and social well-being for its residents

Assessments: Regular recall and retrieval tasks on whiteboards throughout each lesson to check understanding and dispel misconceptions. The unit has a longer piece of writing which is assessed in a GCSE style and then an end of unit assessment test.

Able and interested: Watch Simon Reeves documentary *Russia* on BBC iPlayer which journeys across Russia and the Middle East. It provides a powerful look at human geography, border shifts, and geopolitical tension. By embedding himself with local communities, Simon Reeves captures how physical borders directly influence global politics.

Inclusion, Personal Development and Wider Skills: Tasks are scaffolded to build confidence. Longer exam questions are explicitly broken down into sections

Homework and Independent Learning: Homework is set fortnightly. Tasks will vary according to the topic. There may be pre reading or some research focussed on the lesson content. Other tasks focus on consolidating learning by completing a task, usually with a resource to support the learning.