YEAR 1: The Seven Continents

Contents Include:

Europe
Antarctica
Asia
Africa
North and South America
Australia

Please Note: The activities included in this pack are suggestions only. Teachers should adapt the lessons to ensure they are pitched correctly for their pupils. For an outline of the content included in Year 1 Geography please see: History and Geography Sequence
Lesson 1: The Seven Continents

This lesson is the first in a series of lessons that introduce children to the Seven Continents. During this lesson children should begin to understand that continents are very large areas of land. This may be a difficult concept for young children to grasp, but foundations can be laid for future understanding. The lesson should include lots of images, models and video where appropriate. Children should have some experience of simple maps from previous units of work. A globe can be introduced at this stage as a map made into the shape of Earth. There are seven continents on Earth: Asia, Europe, Africa, North America, South America, Australia and Antarctica. There are five oceans on Earth: The Pacific Ocean, The Atlantic Ocean, The Indian Ocean, The Southern Ocean and the Arctic Ocean.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To begin to recognise continents and oceans.</td>
<td>A globe shows where there is land and sea on Earth. A continent is a large area of land. There are seven continents on Earth.</td>
<td>Prior learning assessment: Ask children to label a blank map of the world with the names of continents or any other information they already know. Ensure children know it is just a check on what they already know and that it is fine to leave the page blank if they don’t know anything yet. Using a globe, show children the land masses and the seas. Label a large map of the world on the whiteboard asking children to repeat the names of the continents. Explain that a continent is a large area of land. Show children images of animals, people and places from each continent. Create a ‘passport’ or information book that children will add to during each lesson of this unit. A labelled outline of the continents could be used as a front cover. This could be drawn by the children, traced or an outline could be provided for labelling. Children could write letters to relevant embassies or organisations to ask questions about specific countries. They may receive some interesting responses.</td>
<td>Earth Globe Asia Europe Africa North America South America Australia Antarctica Pacific Atlantic Indian Southern Arctic</td>
<td>What can you tell me about this globe? What can you tell me about this world map? What is a continent? Do you know the names of any of the world’s oceans?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources:
- [Video](#) of children singing the names of the continents to the tune of Frère Jacques.
- [BBC Class Clip](#) - Climate zones across the world
- [Interactive Map](#) - National Geographic
- [Google Earth](#) is a fantastic interactive resource to show children the Earth
Lesson 2: Europe

In this lesson children will learn about the continent of Europe. The most important thing for children to understand is that we live in Europe. The continent of Europe is one of the smaller continents on Earth. It is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the south and the Atlantic Ocean to the west and north. A border with Asia lies to the east of Europe. Within the continent of Europe there are many cities such as Paris, Rome and London. In some parts of Europe the weather can be warm and sunny in the summer, particularly along the Mediterranean coast. In other more northern parts of Europe, the climate is cooler and winters can be cold and snowy. Animal habitats in Europe have largely been influenced by humans and there are few areas of natural wilderness compared to some of the larger continents.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To recognise the continent of Europe.</td>
<td>We live in the continent of Europe.</td>
<td>Recap previous learning asking children to explain what they know so far about continents.</td>
<td>continent</td>
<td>Where is Europe on this map/globe?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Europe is one of the world’s smaller continents.</td>
<td>Explain that we live in the continent of Europe. Identify Europe on a globe and on a map of the world. Identify the Atlantic Ocean. Discuss why the northern areas of Europe are cooler than the southern areas. Identify some of the countries located within Europe, particularly those with specific relevance to the members of your class. Identify some key physical and human features of Europe such as the shape of Italy, a peninsula that forms the shape of a boot. Identify different landscape in Europe such as the Alpine Mountains and the flat Northern European plains. Label a map of Europe with relevant place names or illustrations. Find out about European animals and their habitats.</td>
<td>Europe Antarctica climate ocean border North South East West mountain plain</td>
<td>What can you tell me about Europe?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In southern Europe the climate can be warm and sunny, but in northern Europe the climate is cooler.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>How is northern Europe different to southern Europe?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Extension: Mammals that live in Europe include badgers, bats and hedgehogs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>What animals can be found in Europe?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resources:</td>
<td>European Wildlife - A Pan-European non-profit organization dedicated to nature conservation and landscape protection.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Can you describe a European animal and the habitat within which it lives?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Teacher subject knowledge: European Physical Geography from National Geographic Education.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rewilding Europe – A movement to re-establish areas of wilderness in Europe – gallery contains some beautiful images.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### European Animals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Badger</td>
<td>Meles meles</td>
<td>Badgers live underground in setts. They eat small animals, plant roots and fruit. Badgers are nocturnal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bat</td>
<td>Common Noctule - Nyctalus noctula</td>
<td>Bats are the only mammals that can fly for a long time. They mostly live in forests. They eat insects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hedgehog</td>
<td>Erinaceus europaeus</td>
<td>Hedgehogs are nocturnal. They live in hedgerows and gardens. They eat slugs, worms, beetles and other insects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallard</td>
<td>Anas platyrhynchos</td>
<td>Mallards, or wild ducks, live in wetlands and eat plants and small animals. Male mallards have glossy green heads but females are mainly brown.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adder</td>
<td>Vipera berus</td>
<td>Adders live in different habitats including meadows and hedgerows. They eat small animals. They are venomous snakes, but their bites would not normally kill a human.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toad</td>
<td>Bufo bufo</td>
<td>Toads often live in forests or fields, not always near water. They walk slowly or jump using all four legs. Toads eat woodlice, slugs, beetles and swallow their food whole.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Human and Physical Features of Europe

**Eiffel Tower**
The Eiffel Tower is in France.

**Eurotunnel**
The Eurotunnel runs between France and England.

**Leaning Tower of Pisa**
The Leaning Tower of Pisa is in Italy.

**Alpine Mountains**
The Alpine mountains range stretches across eight countries in Europe.

**The Rhine**
The Rhine is a river that runs through Germany and two other countries in Europe.

**Woodland**
A long time ago Europe was covered in woodland. A quarter of Europe is now woodland.
Lesson 3: Antarctica

Antarctica is the world’s southernmost continent. The word ‘Antarctica’ comes from a Greek word meaning ‘opposite the north’. Antarctica is a very cold continent and although there are some people temporarily living there for research, nobody lives there permanently. There is a post office on Antarctica, but letters can take up to six weeks to be delivered. Antarctica is home to penguins, seals and other animals that are suited to very cold climates. The coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth was in Antarctica and was recorded by a satellite at -93.2 degrees Celsius. The geographic South Pole is located in Antarctica. The explorer, Roald Amundsen, was the first person to reach the South Pole in 1911.

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To recognise the continent of Antarctica.</td>
<td>Antarctica is the southernmost continent on Earth.</td>
<td>Recap previous learning and ensure children understand that a continent is a large area</td>
<td>North Pole</td>
<td>Can you locate Antarctica on this map/globe?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The continent of Antarctica is very cold and icy.</td>
<td>of land. Ensure children are able to identify the North and South Poles.</td>
<td>South Pole</td>
<td>What can you tell me about Antarctica?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There are very few plants and animals living in Antarctica because it is so cold.</td>
<td>Explain that the most southern continent is called Antarctica. Locate Antarctica on a globe and a world map and discuss how its location is the reason why it is so cold. Show children images or video clips of Antarctica. Discuss what children would see/feel/hear if they went there.</td>
<td>Antarctica tilt</td>
<td>What can you tell me about the seasons in Antarctica?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Using a globe, show children that the Earth’s tilt results in Antarctica having a sunny summertime for half of the year, but then a dark winter for the other half of the year. Even though the Earth is orbiting the sun and revolving, its tilt remains the same. This causes Antarctica to face the sun for half of the year, but face away during the other half of the year.</td>
<td>tilt orbit</td>
<td>What can you tell me about plants and animals in Antarctica?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Find out about animals that can be found in Antarctica. The land is often colder than the sea, so more life can be found in the icy waters surrounding the continent. Some very small plants grow in Antarctica, but there are no trees or shrubs.</td>
<td>summer winter minus (in relation to degrees)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources:
- The coldest place on Earth - BBC News and Discovering Antarctica from the British Antarctic Survey
- National Geographic photographer Paul Nicklen meets a leopard seal - check for suitability - play from 24 seconds.
- Penguin Post Office - BBC Two Natural World
Antarctica
**Antarctic Animals**

**Leopard Seal**  
*Hydrurga leptonyx*

Leopard seals are the largest seals in Antarctica. They have black spots on their necks. They eat fish, penguins and other seals. They can live for up to 26 years.

**Killer Whale**  
*Orcinus orca*

Killer whales eat fish and seals. They live in family groups and hunt together. Some killer whales can live over 30 years old.

**Antarctic Minke Whale**  
*Balaenoptera bonaerensis*

Antarctic minke whales eat small animals like shrimp. They make sounds including whistles, clicks, screeches and grunts. They are hunted by killer whales.

**Macaroni Penguin**  
*Eudyptes chrysolophus*

Macaroni penguins are black and white with bright orange feathers on their heads. They eat shrimp and small fish. They have red eyes.

**Emperor Penguin**  
*Aptenodytes forsteri*

Emperor penguins are the tallest and heaviest penguins in Antarctica. They are black and white with a yellow chest and ear patches. They eat fish and some types of shrimp.

**Wandering Albatross**  
*Diomedea exulans*

The wandering albatross is one of the largest birds in the world. They spend half of their life flying, only stopping to feed and breed. They eat small fish and some types of shrimp.
Human and Physical Features of Antarctica

**McMurdo Research Station**

The McMurdo research station is home to around one thousand scientists and visitors.

**Chapel of the Snows**

The Chapel of the Snows is a Christian church in Antarctica. 63 people can fit inside to worship.

**Port Lockroy**

Ships can dock at Port Lockroy and tourists can visit the shop and museum. Gentoo penguins live very close by.

**Antarctic Ice Sheet**

The Antarctic ice sheet is the largest piece of ice in the world. It stretches across almost all of Antarctica.

**Antarctic Mountains**

There is a range of mountains running across Antarctica. The mountain range is one of the longest in the world.

**Mount Erebus**

Mount Erebus is a volcano in Antarctica. It is an active volcano which means it has recently erupted.
Lesson 4: Africa

In this lesson, children will learn that Africa is one of the world’s seven continents. They will continue to expand their geographic vocabulary by learning about the human and physical features of this fascinating continent. Some ideas for activities are suggested below, but teachers are encouraged to adapt these to ensure pupils are challenged. Africa is the world’s second largest continent, Asia being the largest. Like Asia, Africa has huge physical diversity: deserts, grassland, mountains and jungle can all be found in certain parts of Africa. This continent is home to an enormous range of animals, from hippos and hyenas to butterflies and dung beetles. Africa is the oldest inhabited continent on Earth and people have lived there for over five million years.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To recognise the continent of Africa.</td>
<td>Africa is one of the world’s seven continents. Deserts, grassland and jungle can all be found in Africa.</td>
<td>Recap prior learning - What do we know about continents? Locate Europe and Antarctica on a globe and also on a world map. Show children the equator line and explain it is an imaginary line that shows the ‘middle’ of the earth, half way between the North and South Poles. The equator runs right through the continent of Africa. Locate Africa and the Atlantic Ocean. Discuss how the location of Africa results in some parts being very hot. Show children images and video clips that reflect the diversity of the African continent. Children can find out about African animals such as giraffes, lions, zebras, antelopes and elephants. As children learn about different animals they can begin to find out about migration patterns, particularly for birds such as swallows that migrate from the UK to Africa.</td>
<td>Africa, equator, desert, grassland, jungle</td>
<td>Where is Africa on this globe/map? What can you tell me about Africa? Can you describe the different types of land that can be found in Africa? Can you describe some animals that might be found in Africa?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources:
Teacher subject knowledge: National Geographic Education profile on Africa
Our Africa- children’s videos of Africa
**African Animals**

**Lion**  
*Panthera leo*

Lions are endangered because humans destroy their habitat and hunt them. Lions live in grassland. They eat zebra, wildebeest, buffalo and other mammals.

**Meerkat**  
*Suricata suricatta*

Meerkats are small carnivorous animals. They eat insects and other small animals such as frogs, lizards, snakes and scorpions. They are immune to scorpion venom.

**African Buffalo**  
*Syncerus caffer*

African Buffalo have long bodies and short, thick legs. They have very tough, curved horns. Buffalo graze which means they eat grass. They live in herds.

**Lesser Flamingo**  
*Phoenicopterus minor*

Lesser flamingos have pinkish white feathers and long legs. They eat shrimp and algae from certain lakes in Africa. Human activities threaten their habitats.

**Dung Beetle**  
*Scarabaeoidea (family)*

Dung beetles are beetles that feed on animal dung. Many dung beetles can roll balls of dung much bigger than themselves. Sometimes dung beetles try to steal dung balls from each other.

**Chameleon**  
*Chamaeleonidae (family)*

Chameleons are lizards and some can change the colour of their skin. Some chameleons turn black when they are angry, others change for camouflage. They catch insects by uncurling their tongue.
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<tr>
<th><strong>Great Pyramids</strong></th>
<th><strong>Vineyards</strong></th>
<th><strong>Moroccan Souq</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="pyramids.png" alt="Pyramids Image" /></td>
<td><img src="vineyards.png" alt="Vineyards Image" /></td>
<td><img src="souq.png" alt="Moroccan Souq Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The pyramids in Egypt were built a long time ago for pharaohs. Ancient Egyptians decorated inside the pyramid.</td>
<td>In South Africa there are many vineyards growing grapes. The grapes are ripened by the warm sunshine and turned into wine.</td>
<td>In Morocco you can find busy markets called souqs. You can buy fruit, vegetables, spices, clothes and gifts at the souq.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Savannah</strong></th>
<th><strong>Rainforest</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sahara Desert</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="savannah.png" alt="Savannah Image" /></td>
<td><img src="rainforest.png" alt="Rainforest Image" /></td>
<td><img src="desert.png" alt="Desert Image" /></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The African savannah is grassland with small trees that grow far apart. Lots of animals live in the savannah.</td>
<td>There are some rainforests in Africa. In the Congo, the rainforest is home to gorillas, chimpanzees and many other animals.</td>
<td>The Sahara Desert is very hot and dry. It is the largest hot desert in the world. There is little or no rain in the desert.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson 5: Asia

Asia is the largest and most populous continent in the world. This huge continent borders Africa and Europe to the west and the Pacific Ocean to the east. The highest point in the world, Mount Everest, is found in Asia. In this lesson children should learn to locate Asia on a globe or world map. As in previous lessons, children can continue to develop their understanding of a continent as a huge area of land. When studying Asia, children will discover that the landscape is hugely diverse and ranges from deserts to tropical rainforests, mountains to plains. Asia is home to many interesting animals including tigers, elephants and bears. Asia has many different climates. Some parts of Asia are very dry, such as Aden in the country of Yemen where on average, only 45mm of rain falls each year. Other parts of Asia are very wet, often due to monsoons bringing large amounts of rain. Cherrapunji in Meghalaya State, India, receives on average 11,777mm of rain annually (nearly twelve metres).

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To recognise the continent of Asia.</td>
<td>Asia is the largest continent on Earth. Mountains, rainforests and deserts can be found in Asia. Asia is home to tigers, pandas and elephants.</td>
<td>Recap prior learning - What do we know about continents? Locate Europe, Antarctica and Africa on a globe and also on a world map. Children should be beginning to understand that continents are large areas of land that contain large areas of land within their borders. Show children some images and video clips of Asia including deserts, tropical rainforests, mountains and plains. Discuss the names of Asian countries. Children can find out about Asian animals and their habitats. They could look at the differences between African and Asian elephants. Show children images of the Great Wall of China and explain it was built by a powerful leader a long time ago who wanted to defend his country from his enemies. Children could draw and label some pictures of the different landscapes that can be found in Asia.</td>
<td>Asia tropical rainforest monsoon drought Great Wall of China Pacific Ocean Indian Ocean</td>
<td>Can you find Asia on this globe/map? What can you tell me about Asia? What do you know about Asian animals? What different landscapes could you find in Asia?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources:
Teacher subject knowledge: National Geographic Education profile on Asia
Images of Asia from John Lander Photography
Japan in Your Classroom - An excellent scheme run by the Japan Society providing volunteers for school visits.
Asia
Asian Animals

**Giant Panda**
*Ailuropoda melanoleuca*

Giant pandas live in the mountains in China. They mainly eat bamboo which is a woody plant. They have thick woolly fur to keep them warm in the mountains.

**Sumatran Orang-utan**
*Pongo abelii*

Orang-utans live on the island of Sumatra. They eat fruit, birds eggs and insects. They can use sticks to get honey from bees nests. They are endangered animals.

**Asian Elephant**
*Elephas maximus*

Asian elephants have trunks made of muscle that they use for feeding, watering, touching, washing and gripping. They eat plants and need to drink water every day.

**Peafowl**
*Pavo cristatus*

Male peafowl are called peacocks and females are called peahens. Peacocks have bright blue and green feathers. They eat berries, grains and sometimes small snakes and lizards.

**Hummingbird**
*Trochilidae (family)*

Hummingbirds are some of the smallest birds in the world. Their flapping wings make a humming sound. They drink nectar from flowers and eat small spiders and insects.

**Siamese Crocodile**
*Crocodylus siamensis*

Siamese crocodiles are small crocodiles who eat fish, amphibians and small mammals. They live in rivers, streams and lakes. They are an endangered species.
**Great Wall of China**

The Great Wall of China was built to protect the country from its enemies. It is over five thousand miles long.

**Rice Terraces**

The rice terraces in the Philippines were built two thousand years ago. Farmers could grow rice on the flat land.

**Taj Mahal**

The Taj Mahal was built in India by an emperor in memory of his wife. The walls are decorated with patterns, writing and gem stones.

**The Himalayas**

The highest mountain in the world is Mount Everest which is in the Himalayan mountain range.

**Steppe**

Steppe is dry, flat grassland with no trees. Much of Central Asia’s landscape is steppe.

**Rainforest**

The rainforests in southeast Asia are around 70 million years old. Lots of plants and animals can be found there.
Lesson 6: North and South America

In this lesson children will learn about the two continents of North and South America. If there is time, this lesson could be split into two in order to allow children to study the two continents in depth. The continent of North America is located in the Northern Hemisphere. Canada, Mexico, The United States and Greenland are the main countries in North America. The continent of South America is located in the Southern Hemisphere. There are twelve independent countries on the continent of South America. These include Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and more. North and South America are joined together; however a man-made canal has been created in Panama to allow ships to pass through the narrowest point of land that joins the two continents. The Panama Canal allows roughly 14,000 ships a year to pass through it, avoiding the long trip around the southern tip of South America.

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<th>Related Vocabulary</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To recognise the continents of North and South America.</td>
<td>North America is one of the world’s seven continents. South America is one of the world’s seven continents. North and South America are two continents that are joined together.</td>
<td>Recap children’s previous learning and ensure they understand the compass directions north and south. Introduce the two continents and locate them on a globe and a map of the world. Discuss the countries within each continent particularly those with specific relevance to members of your class. Show children images and video clips of key physical and human features of the two continents such as the Statue of Liberty and Golden Gate Bridge in North America; the Mayan pyramid El Castillo and the Panama Canal in South America. Niagara Falls and the Amazon Rainforest are two key physical features that could be studied. Children can research animals found in North America such as armadillos, brown bears, puffins and eagles. Children can then compare animals and their habitats in Southern America such as sea lions, penguins and poison dart frogs.</td>
<td>North America South America Panama Canal Statue of Liberty Amazon Rainforest Niagara Falls</td>
<td>What can you tell me about North America? Can you find South America on this map/globe? Can you describe a physical feature of North America? Why is the Panama Canal important?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources:
- Explore North America - Discovery Channel
- Amazon Facts - National Geographic Kids
North and South America
North America
South America
North and South American Animals

Armadillo
*Dasypodidae (family)*

The armadillo is a mammal with a hard, leather-like, shell. They have sharp claws that they use for digging. Armadillos eat insects and grubs.

Brown Bear
*Ursus arctos*

Brown bears have thick fur and long claws. Brown bears eat vegetables, plants, and sometimes fish and small animals.

Scorpion
*Scorpionidae*

Scorpions have two claw like pincers and a venomous tail that curves behind them. Their pincers are used to crush their food. Scorpions eat insects, spiders, other scorpions and lizards.

Manatee
*Trichechus inunguis*

Amazonian manatees have thick, wrinkly skin and whiskers. They live in freshwater around the Amazon River. They eat underwater plants.

Poison Dart Frog
*Dendrobatidae (family)*

Poison dart frogs have brightly coloured bodies. Their name comes from a time when people used their poison for the tips of darts. They use their sticky tongue to catch spiders and insects to eat.

Southern American Sea Lion
*Otaria flavescens*

Male southern American sea lions have very large brown bodies with a furry mane like a lion. Females are much smaller. Sea lions eat fish, squid and octopus. They hunt for food in groups.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statue of Liberty</strong></td>
<td>The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France to the United States of America. It is a symbol of freedom.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Machu Picchu</strong></td>
<td>Machu Picchu is a very old city found high up in the mountains in Peru. Built in 1450 by the Incas, the city had palaces, temples, baths and homes for 800 people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rio Carnival</strong></td>
<td>The Rio Carnival is the largest carnival in the world. Millions of Brazilians and tourists gather for the celebration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prairie</strong></td>
<td>The North American prairie is an area of grassland where small plants grow. Badgers, prairie dogs, bob cats and bald eagles can be found in the prairie.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Everglades</strong></td>
<td>The Everglades are tropical wetlands in Florida, North America. Animals such as manatees, crocodiles and the Florida panther live there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Amazon Rainforest</strong></td>
<td>The Amazon Rainforest is the largest rainforest in the world. There are many plants and animals living in the rainforest.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson 7: Australia

In this lesson, children will learn about the smallest of the world’s continents: Australia. People in the Northern Hemisphere often refer to Australia as being ‘down under’ due to its location in the Southern Hemisphere. The continent of Australia usually refers to mainland Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania and New Guinea. There are many other islands in the region of the Central and South Pacific Ocean and these are sometimes known collectively as Oceania. For Year One, it is sufficient for children to locate Australia and be able to recall some key facts. Understanding exactly which countries are included within the continent of Australia can be a focus for future years. Australia is home to some animals that cannot be found elsewhere such as kangaroos, koalas and wallabies. The reason Australia has so many unique species is because the land mass has not been connected to anywhere else for millions of years. This long stretch of time has allowed species to develop and adapt in a distinct way.

See page 132 of What your Year 1 Child Needs to Know

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Learning Objective</th>
<th>Core Knowledge</th>
<th>Activities for Learning</th>
<th>Related Vocabulary</th>
<th>Assessment Questions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To recognise the continent of Australia.</td>
<td>Australia is one of the world’s seven continents. Australia is the smallest of the world’s continents. Australia is home to some animals that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.</td>
<td>Recap prior learning asking children what they have learned about continents so far. Introduce Australia as the seventh and final continent that children will learn about. Identify Australia on a map/globe and discuss its location in the Southern Hemisphere. Explain that the continent of Australia includes the huge landmass of Australia and some surrounding islands. Explain that millions of years ago the landmass of Australia was connected to other continents. Over time, Australia moved very slowly away from the other continents. Australia has not been connected to any other land masses for millions of years. This isolation has allowed animals to grow and change in their own way, making them very different from animals living on other continents. Share and discuss some images and video clips. Create an information page about Australia including details about places, people and animals.</td>
<td>Australia islands kangaroo koala wallaby Southern Hemisphere</td>
<td>Can you find Australia on this map/globe? What can you tell me about Australia? Why do you think Australia is home to some animals that cannot be found anywhere else in the world?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources:
An information booklet on Australia produced by the Australian Embassy in Washington Wildlife - Australian Geographic Australia - National Geographic Kids
Australia
# Australian Animals

## Eastern Grey Kangaroo
*Macropus Giganteus*

Kangaroos live in grassland and woodland in Australia. They eat grass and small plants. They have strong hind legs that help them to jump. Their name means gigantic large foot.

## Koala
*Phascolarctos cinereus*

Koalas live in woods and eat the leaves from the eucalyptus tree. They sleep for around 20 hours a day and only move around for a few minutes to find leaves to eat.

## Platypus
*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*

The platypus is one of very few mammals that lay eggs. It lives in the water and on land. It has webbed feet and a large snout. The platypus eats worms and shrimp from the river bed.

## Australian Pelican
*Pelecanus conspicillatus*

The Australian Pelican has a white body, black wings and a pink bill. The pelican uses its long bill when it dives into water to catch fish. Sometimes pelicans steal food from other birds.

## Zebra Finch
*Taeniopygia guttata*

Zebra finches live in grassland, usually near water. Male zebra finches can sing very loudly. They eat seeds. Some people keep zebra finches as pets.

## Stag Beetle
*Lucanidae (family)*

Stag beetles have large mandibles which they use for feeding. These look like a stag’s antlers. They eat wood, leaves, flowers and sometimes small insects.
# Human and Physical Features of Australia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sydney Opera House</strong></td>
<td>Many people visit the Sydney Opera House to see performances of opera, ballet, music and more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aboriginal Rock Art</strong></td>
<td>Thousands of years ago people, animals and handprints were painted on rocks in caves across Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dingo Fence</strong></td>
<td>The dingo fence is the longest fence in the world and was built to stop dingoes from entering South-Eastern Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Outback</strong></td>
<td>The outback is a huge dry area of land where very few people live. Animals such as dingoes and red kangaroos live in the outback.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ayres Rock</strong></td>
<td>Ayres Rock, or Uluru is a very large sandstone rock. It is a sacred place for the Aboriginal people who live there.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Great Barrier Reef</strong></td>
<td>The Great Barrier Reef is the largest coral reef system in the world. It is made of billions of tiny animals called coral polyps.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lesson 8: Assessment

In this lesson, children will apply the knowledge they have learnt in the previous lessons in this unit. Some suggested activities are detailed below but this lesson is an opportunity for the children to complete any form of assessment task that is deemed suitable. Children should now be able to name the seven continents and describe key human and physical aspects of each. Children should be familiar with globes and world maps by the end of this unit; they should be able to identify key places on both of these.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Objective</th>
<th>Core Knowledge (Consolidation)</th>
<th>Activities for Learning</th>
<th>Related Vocabulary</th>
<th>Assessment Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To show what I know about the seven continents.</td>
<td>A continent is a very large area of land. There are seven continents on Earth. The names of the seven continents are: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Australia, Antarctica and Europe.</td>
<td>Give children a blank map of the world with adequate space surrounding it for annotations or illustrations. Ask children to label the map with the names of the seven continents and then add any extra information they know to the map or the surrounding area. If required offer some pictures as prompts. When children have completed this task, ask them to compare their final map with the one they completed at the beginning of the unit. Discuss how different the two maps (before and after) are highlighting the progress the children have made. If children have been completing a booklet with a page about each continent, give them time to complete this after the assessment is finished.</td>
<td>All previous vocabulary</td>
<td>What do you know about the Earth’s continents? Can you describe any similarities or differences between the continents? Can you name some of the Earth’s oceans?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources:
Any resources from previous lessons.