Year 8
Subject: Geography
Topic/Unit: Resourcing Our Planet
When: HT4

Huntington School
Learn and succeed

Overview: This topic gives an overview of 3 of the most important resources needed in human life – energy, water and food. It investigates how these are used in the UK and how access may not be equal around the world and how this can lead to conflict. Reasons for the uneven distribution are considered and students are encouraged to think about how we can manage resources more sustainably.

Why this? Why now? Students need to study this after the Unequal World topic earlier in year 8 in order to understand why some countries may struggle to make use of certain resources effectively. They need to study this before moving on to the threatened planet topic in Year 9 in order to have some understanding of how people use resources and what the impacts may be.

Building on…building to: This builds on some of the inequalities introduced in the Unequal World topic in HT1 and links onwards to the work in year 9 on climate change which requires understanding of fossil fuels. It also leads to the Resource Management topic at GCSE where the distribution of resources and their importance in human well-being are looked at in more detail.

Sequence summary:

- What are resources and why are they important?
- What are fossil fuels?
- Where does our energy come from in the UK?
- Nuclear power
- Solar power
- Water conflict
- Lesotho water project
- Global food supply
- UK food miles

Key Vocabulary:

- Energy mix – the variety of resources used by a country for their energy needs
- Fossil fuels – coal, oil, gas (the fuels from under the ground)
- Conflict – disagreements about how resources are used
- Water scarcity – not having enough water for your needs
- Water security – having enough water for your needs
- Food miles – the distance food has travelled from where it was grown to where it is consumed

Assessments: Regular recall and retrieval tasks on whiteboards throughout each lesson to check understanding and dispel misconceptions. Exam questions on the end of year exam.

Able and interested: Research what has happened to the Aral Sea as a result of over use of water – who is at fault and how has it impacted people?

Inclusion, Personal Development and Wider Skills: Tasks are scaffolded to build confidence. Students learn about the importance of sustainability in considering how we use natural resources. Students are encouraged to think about how conflict may occur when resources are not equally distributed. Students are introduced to and given the opportunity to practise a range of skills such as map reading, interpreting photographs and using graphs.

Homework and Independent Learning: Homework is set fortnightly from a bank of options designed to fit alongside the topic. Homework tasks are designed to cover a variety of options, some of which are more creative. Students can challenge themselves to have a go at some more challenging tasks, as well as some more scaffolded tasks.