

Year 4 – Spring Knowledge Organiser

Geography—Food and Farming

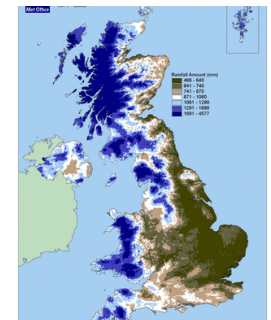


Heathfield Schools' Partnership

In this unit, the children will be introduced to the different types of farming (arable and pastoral) and will compare the UK regions that are suitable to each type, considering the reasons why. They will understand how the four seasons and different weather impacts dairy farming, as well as comparing milk farming in the UK to that in Bangladesh. Developing on their map and atlas skills, the children will understand the location of Bangladesh, and the 'food miles' of the common food that they may eat. They will be able to explain the effects that dairy farming has on the environment and consider how they could reduce these.

Key knowledge

- There are two types of farming (pastoral and arable). Pastoral is usually in the north and the west, arable is usually in the south and the east.
- The west usually sees higher rainfall because the wind brings water vapour in from the Atlantic ocean, which turns to rain as it reaches the mountains. As air moves east, there is less vapour and hence less rainfall.
- Calving happens in Spring until mid-May. In Summer, milking increases (amount of milk produced depends on the cow's stage.) and silage is made. The calves are weaned in Autumn and in Winter, the livestock will be fed more.
- Black Bengal Goat farming (Bangladesh) occurs in rural areas near markets (to sell milk).
- The climate in Bangladesh is very different to the UK (hot and drier).
- To make a farm successful, farmers must consider their employees, upkeep for animals, machinery, type of farm, costs and weather.
- Methane is a greenhouse gas that has negative effects on the environment (a cow releases between 70-120kg of methane per year).
- Food travels from farm, factory, warehouse, to shop/supermarket (food miles).
- Food mile impacts include; pollution, CO2 emissions, noise, fossil fuels, accidents.
- We can reduce the effects of food miles by growing our own food or buying British and seasonal foods.



Key vocabulary

Food miles— the distance a product had travelled to get from where it was grown to where it was eaten. A way of observing the environmental impact.

Silage—grass that is cut, dried and wrapped in plastic so bacteria can convert the sugars to acid, meaning it lasts longer.

Pastoral farming—usually animal farming, in areas with high rainfall and among hills.

Arable farming— usually crop and plant farming, where the climate is drier and soils are deeper.

Global warming— the increase of the Earth's average temperature.

Methane—a gas that is released from cows. It is a greenhouse gas, that has a 23 times greater impact on the climate than CO2.