Year 5 – Summer Term Geography – Where does our food come from and where does it go to?

Vocabulary and Glossary

Climate	The general weather conditions found in a place over a period of time.
Fertiliser	A natural or chemical substance that is spread on the land or given to plants to make them grow successfully.
Irrigation	The practice of supplying land with water so that crops and plants will grow.
Livestock	Animals and birds that are kept on a farm, such as cows, sheep or chickens.
Pastoral farming	Pastoral farming involves raising animals for meat, milk, wool, or other products
Mixed Farming	A system of farming which involves the growing of crops as well as the raising of livestock.
Arable farming	Arable farming is the practice of growing crops on land, typically annual crops like wheat, sugar beet, potatoes, and beans.
Pesticide	A chemical substance used to kill animals and plants that are harmful to crops.
Topography	In farming, topography refers to the surface features and shape of the land, including hills, valleys, and other variations in elevation.

What types of farming are there in the UK?

Farming is the process of producing food by growing plants and keeping animals. In the UK, nearly 70% of the land is used for agriculture.

There are three main types of farming:

- Arable farming involves growing crops such as wheat, barley, and vegetables.
- Pastoral farming is focused on raising animals like cows and sheep.
- Mixed farming includes both crop production and livestock rearing on the same land.

The choice of farming type in any area depends on several factors, including climate, soil fertility, and the shape of the land.

How do people farm locally?

In the UK, many people farm locally in small, community-friendly ways. Some grow fruit and vegetables in greenhouses, which protect plants and help them grow all year round.

Others use allotments—small plots of land rented from the council where families can grow their own food.

There are also communal projects, like community gardens or urban farms, where people work together to grow crops and sometimes keep animals. These local farms help people eat fresh food and take care of the environment.

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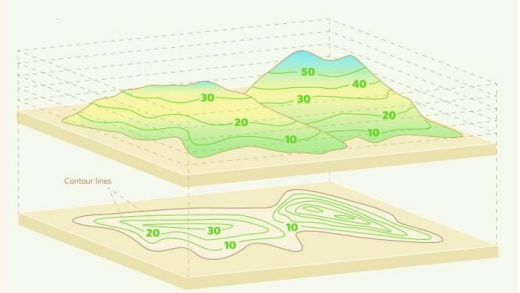
How does topography impact farming?

Flat land is easier to use for **arable farming**, which is growing crops like wheat and vegetables. That's because tractors and machines can move around easily, and the soil doesn't wash away when it rains.



Hilly or steep land is better for **pastoral farming**, which means raising animals like sheep and cows. It's harder to grow crops on hills, but animals can walk and graze there without a problem.

What is trade and why do different parts of the world import and export different goods?

Trade is the buying and selling of goods between different countries. One reason that trade is important is **climate**. Climate means the usual weather in a place. Some crops need hot, sunny weather to grow, while others need cooler, wetter conditions. For example, the UK has a mild and often rainy climate, which is good for growing apples and potatoes. But we cannot grow foods like bananas or cocoa easily because they need a much warmer climate. This is why countries **import** (buy) food from other parts of the world, and **export** (sell) what they can grow or produce themselves.

How many miles has your food travelled?

People in the UK are used to being able to buy many types of food at any time of the year, even when they are out of season locally. To make this possible, food is often brought in from other parts of the world.

The distance food travels from where it is grown to where it is eaten is called **food miles**. Transporting food long distances uses energy—for vehicles and for keeping food cool—which can increase pollution and add to climate change.

What is the impact of modern farming techniques?

Over the last 100 years, farming has changed a lot. In the past, most work on farms was done by hand or with animals. Today, many farmers use modern tools, machines, and scientific methods to grow more food than ever before.

Farmers use **irrigation systems** to water crops, **pesticides** to protect plants from pests, and **fertilisers** to help crops grow faster.
While these changes have helped increase food supplies, some of the methods can harm the environment. For example, chemicals can pollute rivers and damage wildlife, and using large machines can affect the soil and produce more greenhouse gases.