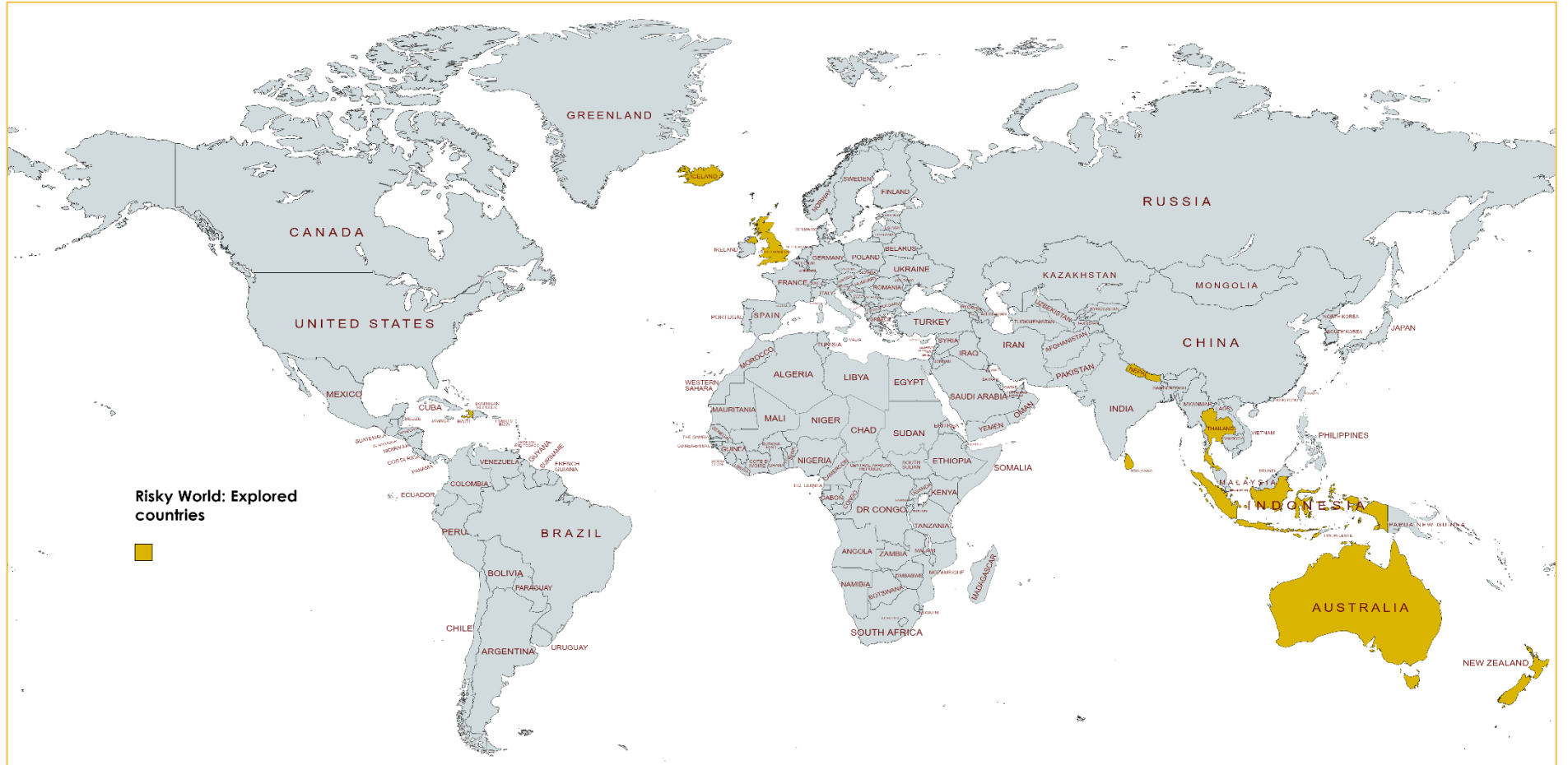


Risky World Subject Knowledge Organiser :

Focuses on our natural world and its RISKY nature the different types of hazards, and how humans can mitigate and adapt to the risk of them.



Contextual World Knowledge

Quality of life and life expectancy vary across the globe as a result of a number of risks. These hazards can be divided into natural disasters (e.g. tropical storms and earthquakes), man-made dangers (e.g. war and crime) and disease, which are often spread by a combination of physical conditions and human actions. The exact impact each of these risks have on a population depends on the country in which they live, with HICs generally able to 'protect' their populations from the worst risks. Extreme weather is when the weather itself becomes a hazard. It can create dangerous, life-threatening conditions and cause widespread damage to buildings and the natural environment. Weather hazards can vary from extreme storms to periods of immense dryness (drought) and extreme heat (heat waves) causing wildfires. A wildfire is an uncontrolled fire that burns in the wildland vegetation, often in rural areas. Wildfires can burn in forests, grasslands, savannas, and other ecosystems, and have been doing so for hundreds of millions of years. They are not limited to a particular continent or environment. Wildfires can burn in vegetation located both in and above the soil. Ground fires typically ignite in soil thick with organic matter that can feed the flames, like plant roots. Ground fires can smoulder for a long time—even an entire season—until conditions are right for them to grow to a surface or crown fire. Surface fires, on the other hand, burn in dead or dry vegetation that is lying or growing just above the ground. Parched grass or fallen leaves often fuel surface fires. Crown fires burn in the leaves and canopies of trees and shrubs.

Geographical Vocabulary

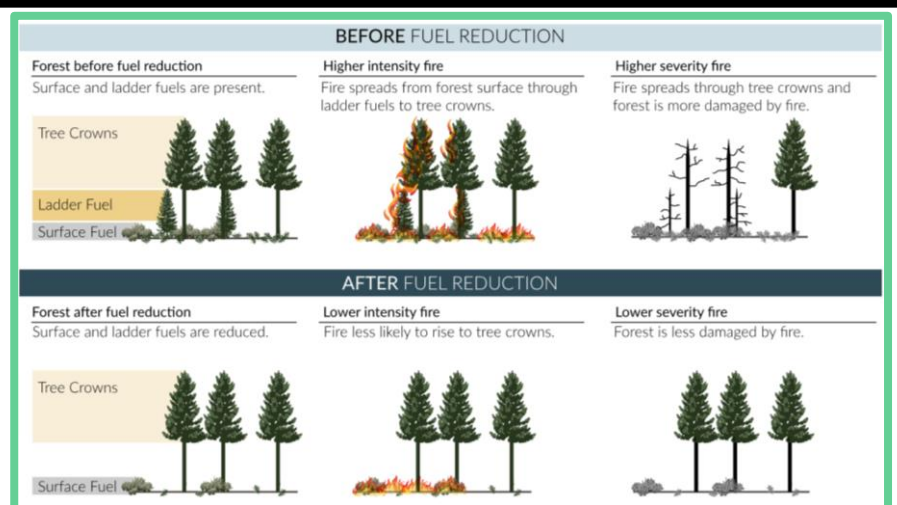
- Risk-** a situation involving exposure to danger, harm or loss.
- Primary effects** - The direct impacts of a hazardous event that usually happen in the short term.
- Secondary effects**- An action or event that was caused indirectly by another, primary effect.
- Immediate responses** - reaction of people as the disaster happens and in the immediate aftermath
- Long-term responses** - later reactions that occur in the weeks, months and years after the event.
- Prediction** – trying to forecast when a hazard is going to occur.
- Protection** – constructing infrastructure so that they are safe, to an appropriate standard and using designs to withstand hazardous conditions
- Preparation** – organising drills and codes of practice so that people know what to do in case of a hazard e.g. hospitals, emergency services and inhabitants practising for major disasters.
- Extreme weather** - This is when a weather event is significantly different from the average or usual weather pattern, and is especially severe or unseasonal. This may take place over one day or a period of time.
- Wildfire-** An uncontrolled fire that burns in the wildland vegetation, often in rural areas.
- Drought-** A period of time over which an area of land experiences a much reduced water supply
- HIC-** High income Country (\$12,695 PPPA) e.g. UK, USA
- LIC-** Low income country (Less than \$1046 PPPA) e.g. Chad, Ethiopia

Geographical Understanding

Wildfires can be human-caused events or are triggered naturally. The problem with natural wildfire is that it can burn for hours before being detected by firefighters, it can therefore burn over large swathes of forest. To classify a wildfire, you must determine which part of the forest they burn in:

Ground wildfires are fires which burn on the ground only, often below the level of leaves

Surface wildfires burn on the surface of the forest with flames reaching as high as 1.3 metres. Crown wildfires are by far the most dangerous as they occur in the tree tops and can spread exceptionally fast. They are considered to be the most destructive, particularly as the fire can jump from tree top to tree top. This makes firefighting almost impossible. The word 'drought' is used to describe a period of unusually low rainfall. Droughts are often characterised by a number of life-threatening dangers including wildfires and famines. Droughts occur across the globe in all types of environment; Britain experiences a drought roughly once every 15 years. However the consequences of droughts in HICs are usually minimal with food and water supplies simply brought in from unaffected areas. Countries in the Sahel are less fortunate, when droughts hit these already poor nations thousands are threatened through malnutrition and starvation.



Skills and Enquiry

You need to be able to:

Understand and make Inferences from photos

Describe using data from a graph

(Think about the GCSE Technique G – General Trend / C – Changes to the trend / S – Specific Data / E – Exceptions to the trend)

Analyse graphs

Complete a Spearmans rank

Draw conclusions from data

Be able to judge how tropical storms, droughts and wildfires could be considered risky.

The St Benet Biscop Geographer

At SBB we want you to develop geographical enquiry further by asking perceptive questions, thinking critically, weighing evidence and developing a perspective or judgment.

As SBB Geographers you need to be aware of the impacts of your daily decisions and choices on both people and the environment. You will relate this to tropical storms, droughts and wildfires in a range of places. This will enrich your knowledge of the global community, your place in the world and the privilege of living in a less risky place. You will be able to connect with victims showing empathy and care for their situations.