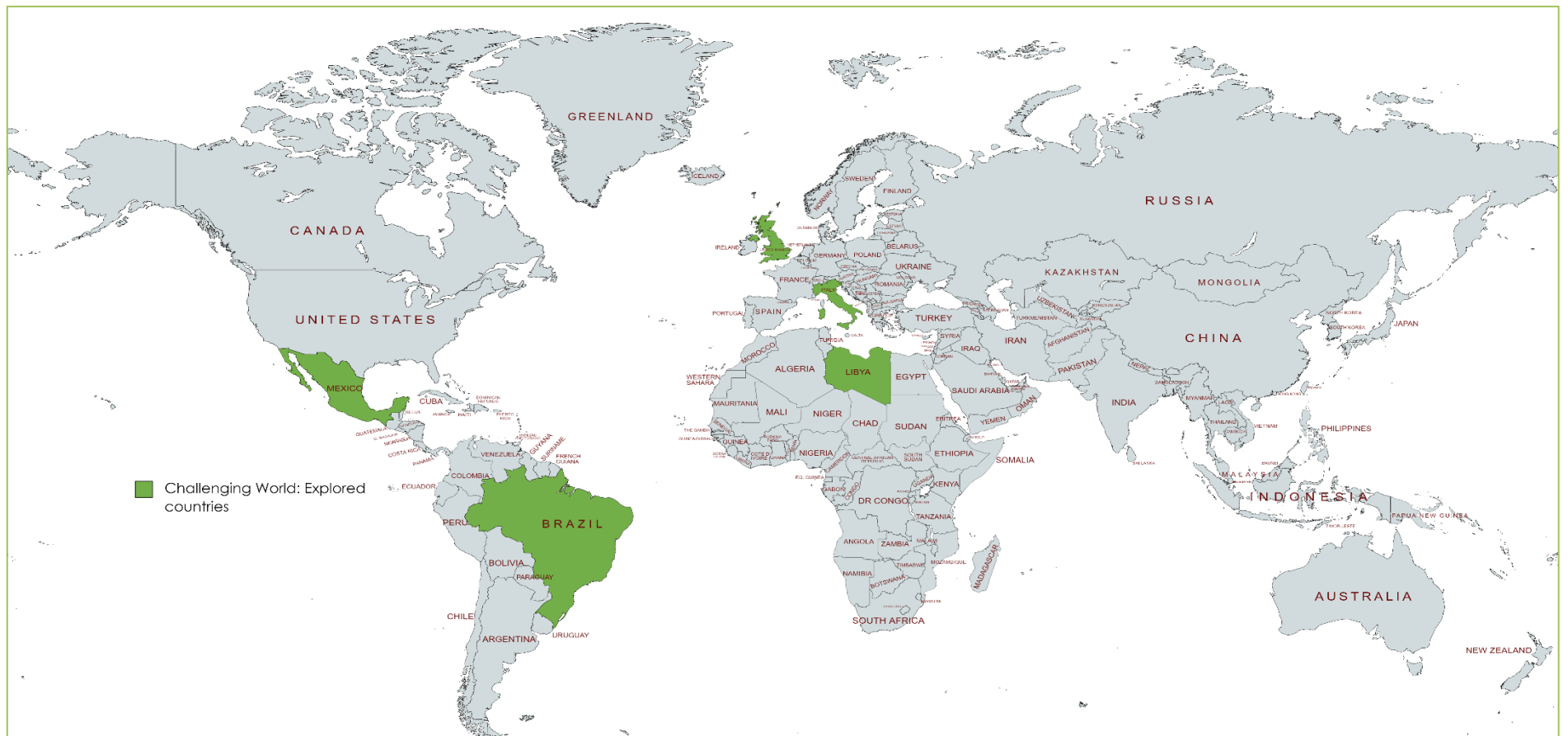# Challenging World Subject Knowledge Organiser :

Focuses on challenges found in rural and urban areas which are then expanded on through a comparison study between Mexico City and London.

Legend: Challenging World: Explored countries

Contextual World Knowledge

Challenging World aims for students to gain a geographical understanding of new places around the world, with the main study areas being Mexico City and London. Developing an understanding of sustainable urban development, particularly within the context of addressing local and global issues enables students to call upon their knowledge of rural and urban areas to assess development. Students will be encouraged to compare the similarities and differences between the lives of people in contrasting areas of wealth to deepen their understanding of inequality. This will be supported by students existing knowledge of HIC's and LIC's. Students will be encouraged to promote the notion of an international community and appreciate different cultures. Students will also develop empathy for those who live differently to us (e.g. extreme poverty).

You need to know the difference between an urban and rural area. You will need to know the geographical context (human and physical features) of both Mexico City and London and how both areas have changed and developed over time. You should be able to define urban sustainability as a city that presents minimal damage to the environment, has a strong economy with fairly allocated and secure jobs, with a strong sense of community, where locals needs are met and they are involved in decisions made. You should be able to identify urban challenges within Mexico City and London e.g. inequality, water pollution etc. and explain the PUSH and PULL factors to both cities. You should be able to explain how to make cities more sustainable, using global examples to support your ideas, or using global examples to create adaptable plans for other nations. You also need to be able to explain what urban growth is (an increase in the absolute size of an urban population) whilst recalling the key terms of urbanisation and urban sprawl.

Geographical Vocabulary

Challenge: something that poses a problem in people's lives.
Urban: Densely populated and built-up areas, often referred to as towns and cities.
Urbanisation: The increase in the proportion (%) of people living in urban areas.
Urban sprawl: The spreading of urban areas as more and more is built.
Rural-urban migration: the movement of people from the countryside to towns and cities.
Push factor: A negative reason that 'pushes' someone away from living somewhere (e.g. war, lack of jobs, poor education, extreme weather).
Pull factor: A positive reason that attracts people to move somewhere (e.g. better education, cheaper housing, better access to healthcare, family and friends).
Slum: A residential area with substandard housing that is poorly serviced and overcrowded, and therefore unhealthy, unsafe, and socially undesirable.
Infrastructure: The essential structures and services that allow for an area to function properly and be connected (e.g. water piping, bridges, and roads).
Inequality: Different people experience different standards of living.
Deprivation: The degree to which an individual or an area is deprived of services and amenities (e.g. poor and overcrowded housing, inadequate diet, inadequate income and lack of opportunity for employment).
Urban sustainability: ensuring urban areas meet the needs of today without compromising the needs of future generations.

Geographical Understanding

Mexico City has experienced rapid urbanisation and growth due to rural decline and has since experienced rapid rural-urban migration. Due to a lack of social, economic and environmental development in the rural areas of Mexico, many come to Mexico City looking for employment opportunities. However, many migrants find themselves unemployed and living in the slum of Nezo-Chalco-Itza where poverty is extreme. This is one of many urban challenges faced in Mexico City, alongside pollution, water supply issues and crime to list a few. In London, inequality if the main urban challenge. This has led to high unemployment and lower life expectancy in poorer boroughs, with Chelsea and Kensington being compared to Newham. By reviewing key examples of sustainable urban development in countries such as Germany, Switzerland, the USA etc, we can promote development that considers the social, economic, environmental and political implications of the city/urban area.

Skills and Enquiry

Describing cities using a variety of different maps, explaining human and physical geography features.
You should be able to review urban population growth and change, commenting on urban sprawl overtime.
Compare and reflect upon urban challenges in a range of cities at an international and national scale.
Understand and interpret photographs.
Analyse different graphs and charts to find evidence that supports your argument.
Carry out data analysis and data manipulation to support your review of key concepts in both Mexico City and London.

The St Benet Biscop Geographer

It is important that we are aware of and understand the issues and urban challenges faced in Mexico City and London. This allows us to have an appreciation for the wider world we live in, which we should strive to support and develop at all times. We are part of a global community, that we should show stewardship for. You need to be aware of conflicting sides of arguments for topical issues such as rural-urban migration and sustainable urban development in order to discuss potential solutions. By studying London, you will gather an appreciation for issues faced closer to home and in a HIC, to reiterate the premise that urban challenges are in a range of areas with different socio-economic contexts. You will respect and understand the urban challenges in both areas studied, being able to draw comparisons between HIC's and LIC's, and reflecting on your own experience with urban development.