History and Geography at West Green

We proudly use the *Opening Worlds* curriculum to support our teaching of History and Geography at West Green. This curriculum has been developed by Christine Counsell and Steve Mastin, two leading figures in curriculum design in the UK. Indeed, West Green Primary School, as part of the Haringey Education Partnership, was an early adopter of the curriculum, contributing to its development and supporting other schools with their teaching.

The *Opening Worlds* Curriculum is a knowledge-rich programme which is highly ambitious – going beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum. It is perfect for our learners because:

-it is carefully sequenced to ensure that all pupils make their own meaningful connections between current subjects and with previous learning. Each unit provides the building blocks of factual content to enable the children to recognise patterns, notice similarities and differences, and ask the right sort of questions. It also explores strong interconnections between the two subjects, and has subject-specific disciplinary rigour, teaching pupils to interpret and argue, and to understand the distinctive ways in which subject traditions enquire and seek truth.

- it has global cultural breath embracing wide diversity across ethnicity, gender, region and community.

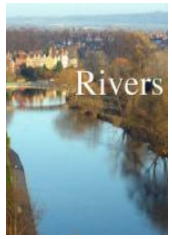
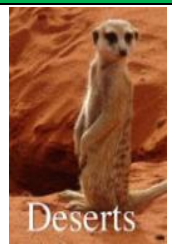
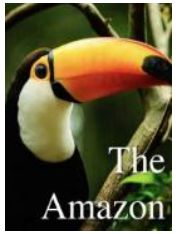
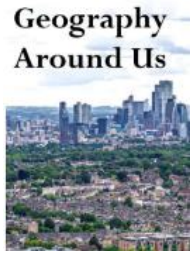
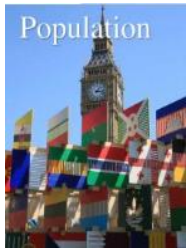
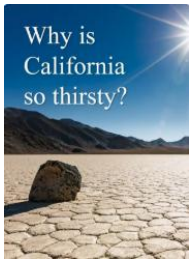
- it has a strong focus on oracy and systematically introduces and revisits vocabulary. Reading and speaking are key elements of the learning journey throughout Opening Worlds content.

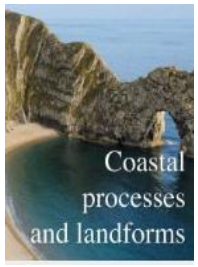
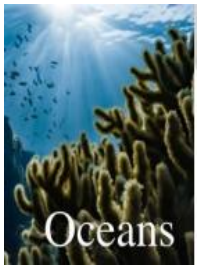
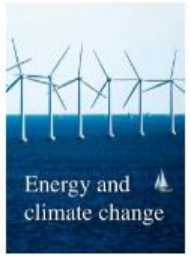
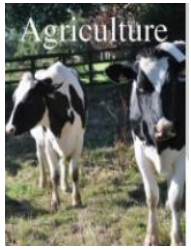
- it naturally lends itself to cross curricular links on which children can use their history and geography knowledge to enhance their learning in other subjects across the curriculum, such as writing and art.

-it has a highly inclusive approach, secured partly through common knowledge (giving access to common language) and partly through thorough high-leverage teaching that is pacey, oral, interactive and fun.

Reception children are taught History and Geography via the 'Understanding of the World' requirements of the EYFS framework. Through their continued provision and thematic unit plans children are guided to make sense of their physical world and their community via opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places and the environment. Children are encouraged to talk about past and present events in their own lives and discuss their own environments. The learning at this stage builds the foundational knowledge children require to thrive in Key Stage 1.

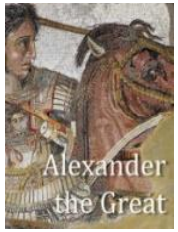
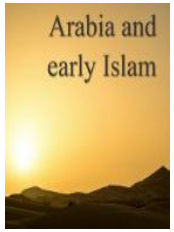
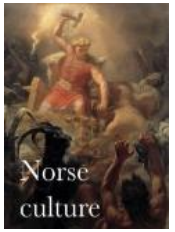
Geography Curriculum Overview

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Autumn 1					
---	---				
---	---	Rivers	Climate & Biomes	Earthquakes	North and South America
Autumn 2					
Our School	 What a Wonderful World!	 Mountains	 The Rhine & the Mediterranean	 Deserts	 The Amazon
Spring 1					
 Geography Around Us	---	 Settlements	 Population	 Why is California So Thirsty?	

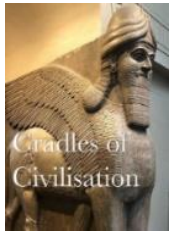
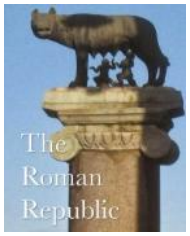
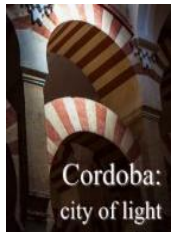
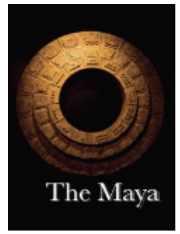
Spring 2					
					
Our Country: The UK	Let's Go To China	Volcanoes	Coastal Processes & Landforms	Oceans	Interconnected Amazon
Summer 1					
---		---	---	---	
---	Magical Maps	---	---	---	Energy & Climate Change
Summer 2					
					
Wonderful Weather	Beside the Seaside	Agriculture	Tourism	Migration	Local Area Geographical Enquiry

History Curriculum Overview

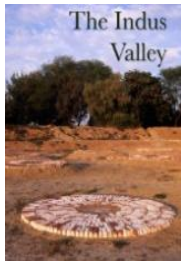
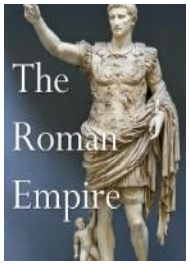
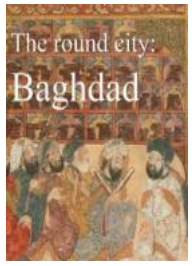
Autumn 1

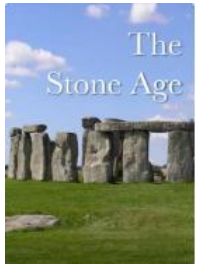
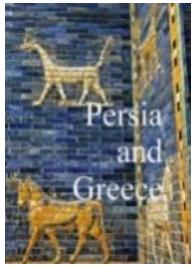
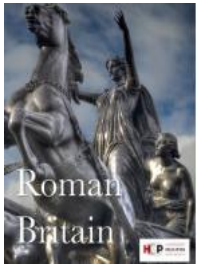
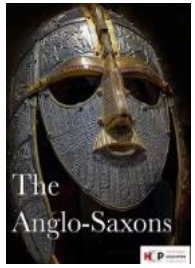
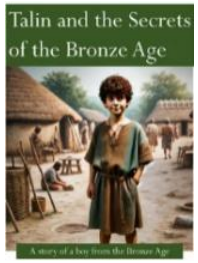
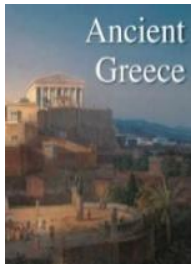
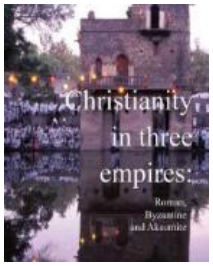
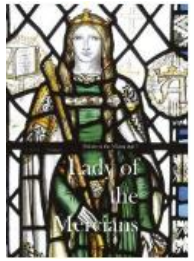
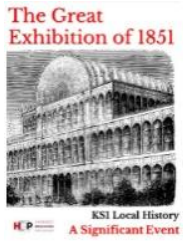
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
					
Changes over time	Rosa Parks & Emily Davidson	Ancient Egypt	Alexander the Great	Arabia & Early Islam	Norse Culture

Autumn 2

	---				
November, November	---	Cradles of Civilisation	The Roman Republic	Cordoba: City of Light	The Maya

Spring 1

---					
---	The Great Fire of London	The Indus Valley	The Roman Empire	Baghdad: The Round City	Britain in the Era of World War Two

Spring 2					
---					---
---	The Stone Age	Persia and Greece	Roman Britain	The Anglo Saxons	---
Summer 1					
					---
Two Queens called Elizabeth	The Bronze Age	Ancient Greece	Christianity in Three Empires	Vikings: Lady of the Mercians	---
Summer 2					
	---	---	---		
The Great Exhibition	---	---	---	Changing Rulers, Changing Worlds	Local History Study