



Year 8 Topic 4 - Superpowers

10 Lessons

Aims: This unit of work aims to explore the role of ‘superpowers’ in the world, and the rise of powerful nations. It will examine the concept of a multipolar world, and the role of five major emerging national economies – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). Students will understand the legacy of colonialism, the dependency theory, the role of trade blocs and will gain a specific focus on the European Union.

Links To KS3 National Curriculum:

Pupils should consolidate and extend their knowledge of the world’s major countries. In doing so, they should become aware of increasingly complex geographical systems in the world around them. They should develop greater competence in using geographical knowledge, approaches and concepts (such as the dependency theory) and geographical skills in analysing and interpreting different data sources. Students should extend their locational knowledge and deepen their spatial awareness of the world’s countries using maps of the world to focus on Africa, Russia and Asia (including China and India), focusing on key physical and human characteristics, countries and major cities. This will also include international development.

Links to KS4:

- Edexcel B, Paper 1 – Topic 2 – Development Dynamics
- Edexcel B, Paper 1 – Topic 3 – Challenges of an Urbanising World
- Edexcel B, Paper 2 – Topic 5 – UK’s Evolving Human Landscape (London)
- Edexcel B, Paper 3 – Topic 9 – Consuming Energy Resources (energy security)

Key Skills	Literacy Links:	Numeracy Links:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse and communicate with a range of data Interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, diagrams, globes, aerial photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Communicate geographical information in a variety of ways, including through maps, numerical and quantitative skills and writing at length. Build on their knowledge of globes, maps and atlases Topographical and other thematic mapping, and aerial and satellite photographs Use Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to view, analyse and interpret places and data 	<p>Key words:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superpower; unipolar; multipolar; dependency; bloc; colonialism; economic; political; 	<p>Map skills, using data and graphs.</p>
Assessment	Cross-Curricular Links	

An exam-style paper, consisting of a mixture of questions ranging in marks from 1 to 8. These will include short answer, multiple choice, longer written answers and interpretation and use of given figures and data.

- History – Colonialism
- Previous topics on water and energy – natural resources
- Previous topic on Russia – as a superpower
- Previous topic on Africa – development and colonialism

SMSC opportunities and British values

- Investigate moral and ethical issues – with regard to dependency theory and colonialism.
- Offer reasoned views.
- Use a range of social skills to discuss opinions.
- Appreciate diverse viewpoints.

Opportunities for further learning

- **Option 1:** Revise Core Facts for the unit from your knowledge organiser
- **Option 2:** GCSE Pod (Global Development)
- **Option 3:** Seneca Learning (KS3 Geography – Russia; Development)
- **Option 4:** BBC Bitesize KS3 Geography (Development, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zvwtstk>; Globalisation, Trade and Interdependence, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z3jhfg8>)