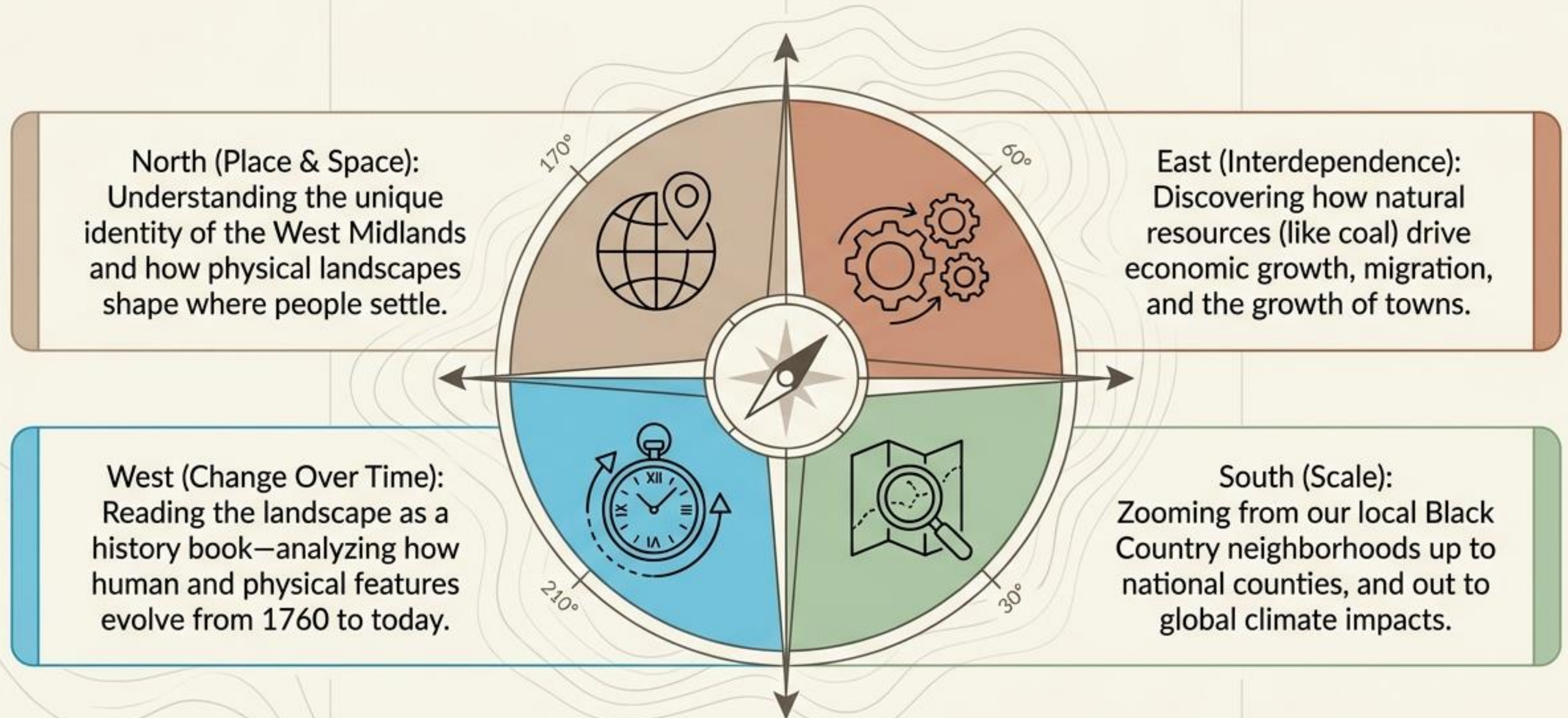


Discovering Our World:
Year 6 Autumn Geography
The Black Country & The
Industrial Revolution (1760 – 1840)

*A guide for parents:
What we're learning, why it
matters, and how you can
explore the world together
at home.*

We aren't just learning facts; we are learning to think geographically.

In Year 6, your child steps into the shoes of a modern cartographer. We focus on four key lenses to view our world:



Connecting the Dots: Past, Present, and Future



Building Foundations (Prior Learning)

In earlier years, your child learned the countries of the UK, identified simple physical and human features, and explored early settlements and local maps.



Our Current Focus (Autumn Year 6)

A deep dive into the West Midlands. We are understanding how the Industrial Revolution transformed population, land use, and energy from 1760 to today.



Preparing for Secondary (Future Learning)

This unit directly equips them for KS3, where they will tackle complex global geopolitics, world biomes, global trade, and the critical challenges of climate change and sustainability.

Inside the Unit: Navigating the Industrial Revolution

Locational Mapping

Naming and locating the 48 counties of England, focusing deeply on the West Midlands (Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire) and the Black Country sub-region (Sandwell, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Walsall).

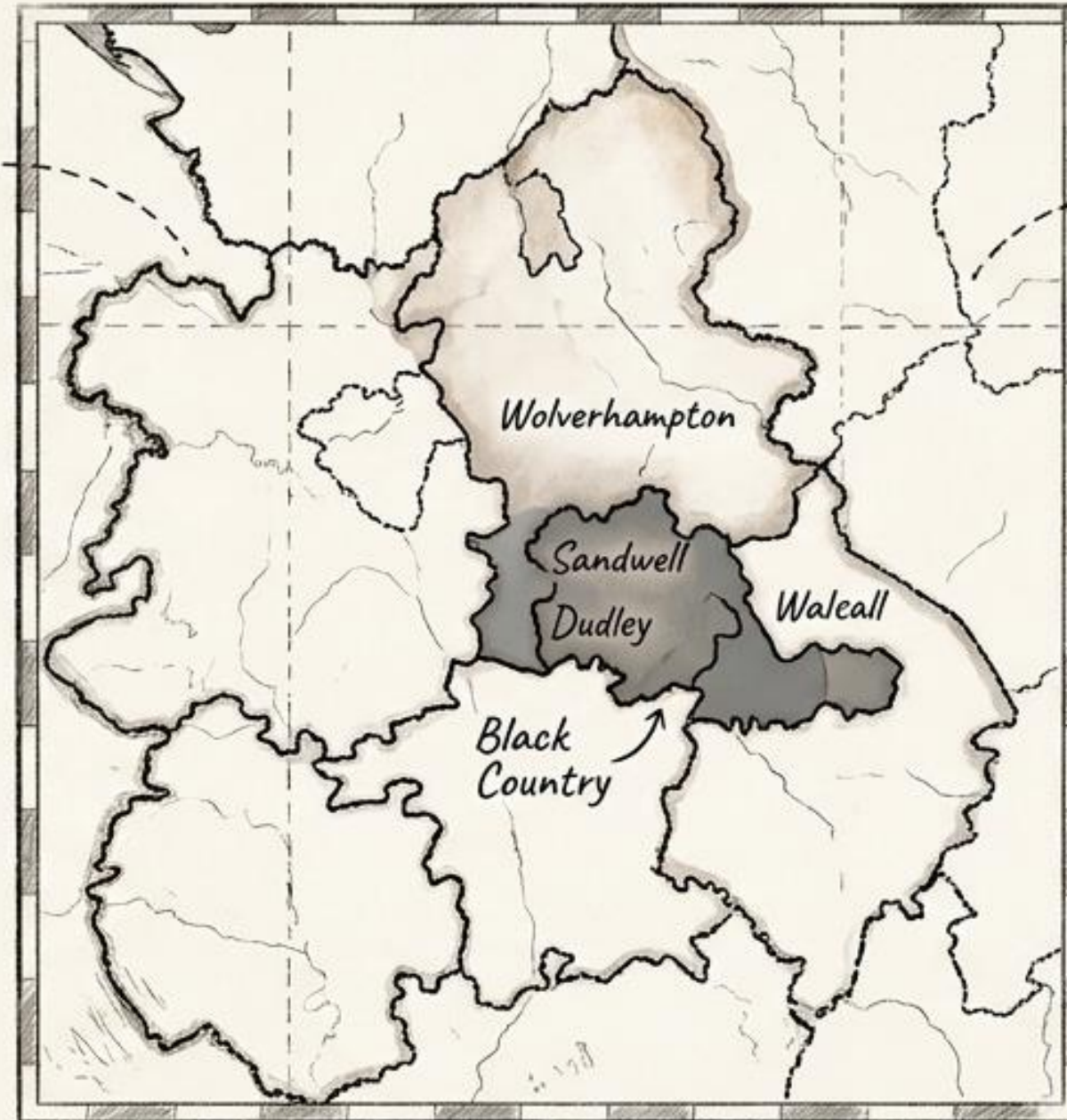
Pinpointing our place in the bigger picture.



Human vs. Physical Features

Drawing sketch maps to identify natural landscapes (hills, rivers) and how humans aggressively adapted them (canals, factories, railways, Dudley Castle).

The landscape transformed by hand.



Land Use & Urbanisation

Tracking how the region grew from a rural landscape to an industrial powerhouse, and mapping the rapid population growth as people moved here for work.

From fields to factories.



Energy Evolution

Understanding coal's massive historical role in powering machines, and contrasting it with the urgent modern shift toward renewable energy sources.

From coal to clean energy.

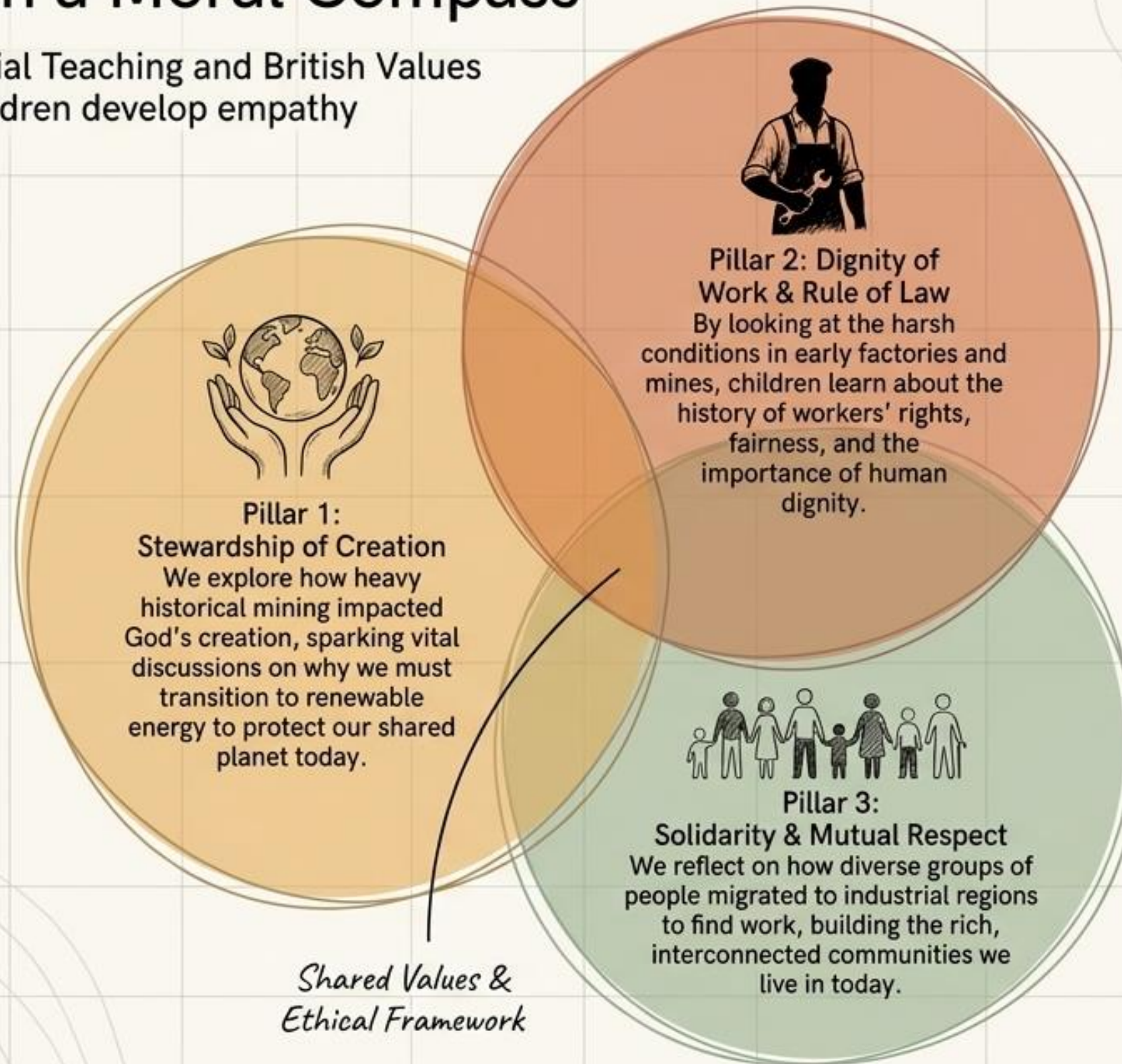


Reading the Landscape: A Geography of Change

	Pre-1760 <i>From fields to factories</i>	The Industrial Peak <i>A shift in power</i>	Modern Day
Land Use	 Farming and small rural settlements	 Dense factories, coal mines, and canal networks	 Urban regeneration, modern housing, and returning green spaces
Energy Sources	 Wood, wind, water	 Heavy reliance on coal and steam power	 Solar, wind, and the crucial transition to renewables
Population	 Sparse and spread out	 Rapid urbanisation and mass migration into the towns	 Diverse, interconnected, and established communities

Geography with a Moral Compass

We intertwine Catholic Social Teaching and British Values into our lessons to help children develop empathy and global responsibility.



Today you were like a...

At the end of our lessons, we take 30 seconds to plant seeds of ambition.
This term, your child is practicing the skills used by:



Town Planners & Architects:
Considering how historical settlements grew and how modern places can be designed sustainably.



Energy Engineers & Environmental Scientists:
Exploring how coal shaped our past and how renewable technology will shape our future.

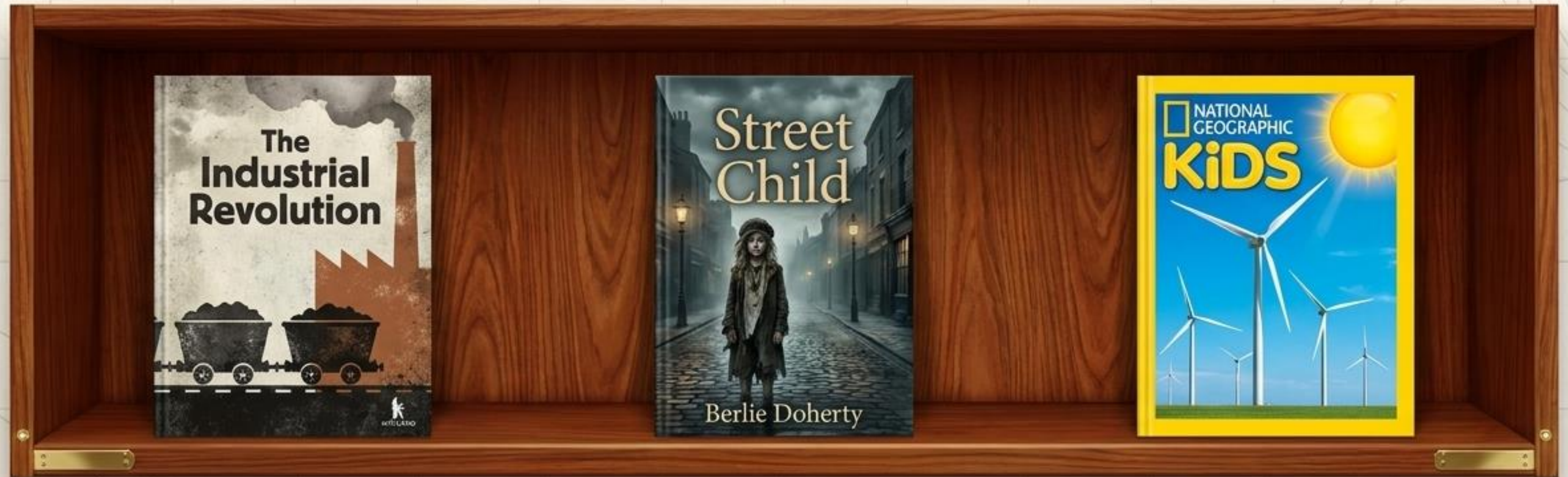


Cartographers & GIS Specialists:
Drawing detailed sketch maps, plotting data, and interpreting geographical boundaries.



Local Historians & Cultural Officers:
Uncovering how physical geography directly influenced the lives, struggles, and successes of everyday people.

Bring the Learning Home: Our Reading Spine



Book 1: "The Industrial Revolution"
(Wayland KS2 History)

Why read it? A brilliant non-fiction book packed with diagrams, maps, and facts about coal, factories, and the era that transformed our local area.

Book 2: "Street Child" by Berlie Doherty

Why read it? A gripping fictional story that brings the human geography of the Victorian era to life, highlighting the living conditions of children in rapidly urbanizing areas.

Book 3: National Geographic Kids
(Articles on Renewable Energy)

Why read it? Perfect for sparking conversations about the future. Explores how the world is shifting from the coal of the Black Country's past to wind and solar power.

Taking Geography Beyond the Classroom



Idea 1: The "Then & Now" Local Walk

Take a walk around your neighborhood. Ask your child to point out "Physical Features" (hills, rivers) and "Human Features" (roads, buildings, canals). Discuss: What do you think was here 200 years ago?



Idea 2: Visit the Black Country Living Museum

Step back in time! It's the perfect place to see the human geography, mine replicas, and industrial heritage we are studying in class brought to life.

Idea 3: The Energy Audit. Learning Meter

Look around your home. Discuss where your electricity comes from. Is it powered by fossil fuels or renewable energy? How has our reliance on energy evolved since the 1800s?



Idea 3: The Energy Audit

Look around your home. Discuss where your electricity comes from. Is it powered by fossil fuels or renewable energy? How has our reliance on energy evolved since the 1800s?

The Year 6 Family Geography Challenge!



Bonus Discussion: Have your child explain to you how the "land use" of your sketched route might have looked during the height of the Industrial Revolution!

The Mission: "The Kitchen Table Cartographer"

Step 1: Together as a family, draw a "Sketch Map" of a route you take often (e.g., from your home to school, or home to the local park).

Step 2: Add an 8-point compass rose (North, North-East, East, etc.) in the corner of your map.

Step 3: Create a "Key" using symbols. Invent unique symbols for at least 3 Human Features (like a shop, a bus stop, or a factory) and 2 Physical Features (like a large tree, a stream, or a steep hill).