

Geography Knowledge Organiser

Year 5

Summer (i)

How has Greenwich's land use changed over time?

Substantive Knowledge – Greenwich has evolved from an agricultural town to an industrial one. Now Greenwich is a tourist destination.

Land Use Over Time

17th Century

The majority of land in Greenwich was wetland and there were no drainage systems in place so flooding happened. There were tidal marshes and sparsely dotted farmland plots. (The Thames Barrier, 1984, is a mechanism to prevent flooding but Greenwich is considered a high risk location).

Early 19th Century

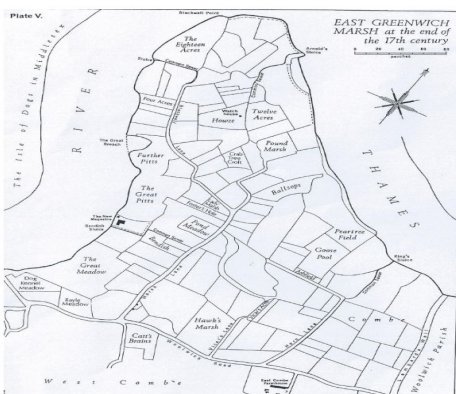
There was a small population but there was development and some parts were farmed. Wildlife in the Wetlands area was plentiful. By the late 19th Century (Victorian England), industries, such as shipbuilding, and telegraph cable production, had moved onto the Greenwich Peninsula. There were still farms. However, from this point, the area was to be taken over by industry and lose its agricultural character.

20th Century

Within thirty years, the whole landscape had changed. With the opening of the Blackwall Tunnel in 1897 and the Metropolitan Gasworks in the 1880s, the area was industrialised and highly polluted. During WW2 the Peninsula suffered bomb damage and never really recovered from that loss of major industry. Along with other technological advancement, the docks were no longer central to Greenwich life and employment.

Did you know?

The Coldharbour housing estate began development in 1947 on the site of Coldharbour Farm, by then the last working farm in London, built by the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich. It was created in a garden suburb style in order to house borough residents made homeless by The Blitz and young families. Many of the remaining roads retain the names of the ancient fields they were built on, including Littlemede, Southold Rise, Altash Way and Woodcroft.



17th Century



19th Century

The topographical features of Greenwich

The town of Greenwich is built on a broad platform to the south of the River Thames, with a safe deep water anchorage lying in the river. To the south, the land rises steeply, 100 feet (30 m) through Greenwich Park to the town of Blackheath. The higher areas consist of a sedimentary layer of gravelly soils, known as the *Blackheath Beds*, that spread through much of the south-east over a chalk outcrop—with sands, loam and seams of clay at the lower levels by the river.

Human features supporting tourism



Because of its royal history, green spaces, and location on the south bank of the River Thames, there is an impressive range of old and new (The O2 and The Greenwich Peninsula) human features which support tourism. Greenwich is the greenest of the London Boroughs and became a Royal Borough in 2012 marking the Diamond Jubilee and London Olympics.

Did you know?

Approximately 19,000,000 tourists visit Greenwich each year, supporting the local economy by spending £1.3 billion supporting 15,000 local jobs.

What is the Prime Meridian? Greenwich Meridian (Prime Meridian) - GIS Geography

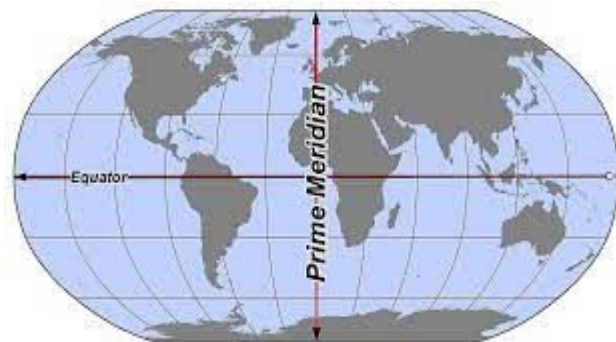
A meridian is a north-south line, selected as the zero reference line for astronomical observations. By comparing thousands of observations taken from the same meridian it's possible to build up an accurate map of the sky. Greenwich has a rich history of astronomy.

Portable Knowledge

The Greenwich Meridian crosses through Greenwich.

Greenwich sits on the south bank of the River Thames.

Greenwich Park (Henry VIII and the London Olympics), Woolwich and Plumstead Commons and Blackheath are part of Greenwich's green spaces.



Core Vocabulary

topographical features- Topography studies the elevation and location of landforms

land use the function or purpose of a particular area

grid references a location on a map, which is found using the northing and easting numbered lines