

Geography Knowledge Organiser

Year 4

Spring (i)

What is different about The North and South Downs?

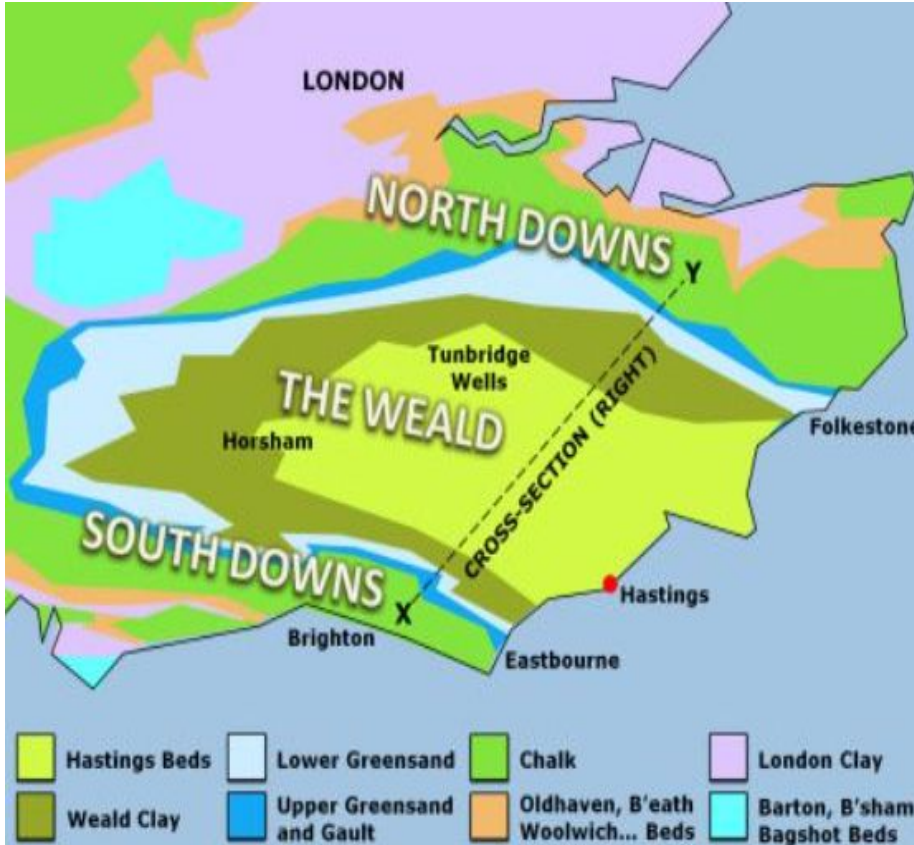
Substantive Knowledge – The North Downs are a range of chalk hills and valleys in south east England. The South Downs are a range of chalk hills which go across the coast of South England. They are parallel to one another having been formed from The Weald in the centre of The Downs.

The South Downs and Their Identifying Physical Characteristics and Topography

The South Downs is home to a number of rare species, including the Adonis blue butterfly that thrives in chalk grassland. The South Downs has boundless open landscape of rolling chalk downland. The South Downs' long thin chalk ridge spans Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex and has been designated as a National Park.



Cissbury Ring - Iron Age hill-fort, 300BC



There is evidence that the South Downs have been used by humans for the last 6000 years.

The South Downs are characterised by rolling chalk downland with close-cropped grass and dry valleys, and are recognised as one of the most important chalk landscapes in England. The range is one of the four main areas of chalk downland in southern England.

Did you know?

Most of England was forest land for many centuries. Even now, there is still 13% of woodland.

What is different about the North and South Downs?

The North and South Downs are parallel ranges of chalk hills. Weathering and erosion during the last ice age sculpted the landscape into its valleys, distinct hilltops and ridges. There is a dome in the centre known as The Weald. The Weald ' soft rocks have been eroded over time leaving the North and South Downs.

There are many challenges for walkers along the South Downs as it has a number of steep ascents (hills) and descents (drops).; there is clay soil and woodlands The North Downs are easier to walk upon as they are much more even with fewer climbs and gradients.

Walking The South Downs



Ebbsfleet Valley and Bluewater is in The North Downs

Ebbsfleet's dramatic landscape and topography of chalk cliffs, river inlets, marshland, and its proximity to the Thames provides a unique opportunity to create a development that is characterful and distinctive.

The River Thames and its estuary has throughout history been a vital corridor for trade, travel and industry.

The Ebbsfleet chalk quarries and chalk cliffs of East Sussex are facing rapid erosion compared with areas of the South Downs which has clay soil and wooded farmland.



Building on the former Bluewater Quarry cliff edge

Did you know?

Parts of London and Kent had a water hosepipe ban between August and December in the last few years due to low rainfall and poor systems for storing water

Portable Knowledge – What we need to remember

Comparisons between Swanscombe chalk quarries (the North Downs) and East Sussex (The South Downs).

Water availability in the South of England is greatly impeded when there are hotter summers and less rain (leading to water shortages and hosepipe bans).

Core Vocabulary

erosion– the removal of soil or stone because of rain or wind over time.

quarry– the location where stone is mined.

weald – a heavily wooded area (forest)