Hemingbrough Geography Curriculum			
Theme: Vegetation Belts & Climate Zones	**Phase:** Lower Key Stage Two	**Year Group**: 3	**Strand:** Locational Knowledge / Human & Physical Geography

By the end of the theme I should be able to:

- Describe and understand key aspects of vegetation belts and climate zones..

In Year 1 & 2 I should already have learned to:

- **Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key physical features** (beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather) **and key human features** (city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop).

What is a Vegetation Belt?

An area with distinct plant types, determined by **climate zone**, soil, **drainage**, and **elevation**. There are five major **vegetation** regions: **forest**, **grassland**, **tundra**, **desert**, and **ice sheet**.

CLIMATE ZONES

The weather changes in different parts of the world. Where there are similar weather patterns this is known as a **climate zone**.

At the top of the Earth is an **arctic** climate and some of the coldest **temperatures** in the world are here.

Temperate climates are found further south: as you approach the **equator** you find Mediterranean and **desert** climates. Some of the hottest places on Earth are found here, and few people live in this climate.

At the equator there is a **tropical** climate and travelling south of the equator it gets cooler again before reaching the Antarctic.

KEY VOCABULARY	
arctic	region around the North Pole
climate zone	areas of and with distinct climates
coniferous	relating to trees with cones e.g. pine tree
deciduous	a tree or shrub which sheds its leaves annually
desert	a barren landscape with little rain
drainage	a process of draining something
elevation	being raised above a given level e.g. sea level
equator	line around the middle of the Earth
forest	large area covered by trees
grassland	large piece of land with grass and few trees
ice sheet	a large layer of ice covering
savannah	grassland in a tropical climate
temperate	climate zone with mild temperatures
tropical	climate zone with hot, humid weather
tundra	flat, dry, treeless Arctic region
vegetation	plants in a given climate

KEY SKILLS I WILL LEARN:

- Compare physical and human features, draw conclusions, pose questions and use prior knowledge of map reading.
- Discover the cause of global warming and research the implications.

FOREST

There are 6 types of forest on Earth: **rainforest**, **tropical**, **temperate deciduous**, **warm temperate deciduous** and **coniferous**.

A forest is a piece of and with many trees.

Coniferous forests dominate in cold climates: the conifers keep the soil shaded and cool so other plants cannot grow.

Deciduous forests (N. America, Europe & Asia) lose leaves in Winter which decay, creating nutrients for new plants to grow.

Rainforest: found in tropical climates.

GRASSLAND

Grasslands can be both **tropical** and **temperate**.

Tropical grasslands are also called **savannahs**.

'Grasslands' or 'savannahs' are usually found between deserts and forests.

Temperate grasslands include: prairies (N. America), steppes (Russia) and pampas (S. America).

Find out more here:

https://www.ducksters.com/science/ecosystems/grasslands_biome.php

TUNDRA

Tundra is a cold and treeless area where it is difficult for plants and animals to survive.

Around 20% of the earth's surface is Tundra.

Tundra is cold and dry, with a much rainfall as the desert but in the form of snow.

Permafrost lies beneath the topsoil all year.

Arctic Tundra: located in the Arctic.
Alpine Tundra: found high in the mountains.

DESERT

A desert is an area where little or no life exists because of a lack of water. About one-fifth of the earth's land surface is desert.

Deserts are on every continent except Europe.

Deserts are 'hot and dry' or 'cool and dry'.

Snakes and lizards, and amphibians, like frogs and toads—are well-adapted to the hot desert.

Most desert plants are cacti.

ICE SHEET

An ice sheet is a mas of glacial ice of more than 1900 square miles.

Ice sheets contain about 99% of fresh water found on Earth.

There are only two ice sheets on Earth today: the Antarctic Ice Sheet and the Greenland Ice Sheet.

Ice sheets ate formed by layers of snow building up, melting, freezing and settling on top of each other over many years.