

Suitable for Geography Year 3 and other ages

Teachers Notes

Investigating Our Local Area

Introduction

These teacher's notes describe a set of activities based on Ordnance Survey mapping, to satisfy learning objectives from the National Curriculum. These activities should be used in conjunction with the QCA Scheme of Work 'Investigating our Local Area' which can be found at www.standards.dfes.gov.uk

National Curriculum.

The following activities link to the Geography Programme of study:

- 1a. Asking geographical questions
- 1e. Communicating in ways appropriate to task and audience
- 2a. Using appropriate geographical vocabulary
- 2c. Using maps and plans at a range of scales
- 2e. Drawing maps and plans at a range of scales
- 2f. Using ICT to help in geographical investigations
- 3a. Identifying and describing what places are like
- 3c. Describing where places are
- 4a. Recognising and explaining patterns made by individual physical and human processes in the environment
- 6a. Studying a locality in the United Kingdom
- 6d. Studying how settlements differ and change, including why they differ in size and character
- 7a. Studying at a range of scales – local

Links to ICT:

- 1b Finding information
- 1c interpreting information

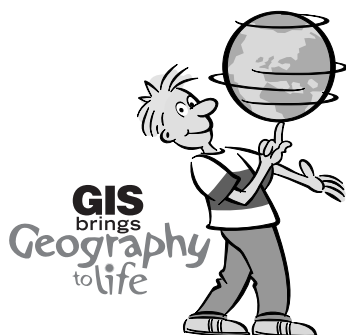
Opportunity for 3a Sharing and exchanging information by e-mail

Mapping access tools

MapsDirect for Schools (www.maps-direct.co.uk/schools/) is a new Internet service provided jointly by Ordnance Survey and ESRI (UK) to provide easy access for schools to large-scale Ordnance Survey mapping and data. Using the web browser, schools can instantly find map data covering an area of interest by typing in a postcode or place name, and the maps can be printed out or copied into documents for schoolwork. Some basic drawing and measurement tools are included.

A separate Practice Exercise worksheet is provided to help children get to grips with using the MapsDirect site, and this has an accompanying "Introducing MapsDirect" help sheet. It is strongly recommended that this exercise is completed before starting the units below.

Get-a-map (<http://www.get-a-map.co.uk/>) is an Internet service provided by Ordnance Survey, providing online access to small samples of a range of small-scale Ordnance Survey mapping. It complements the MapsDirect service well, and allows activities to be completed that would otherwise need access to printed paper maps.



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Units 1 to 3

Unit 1: Where is our school?

2: My Route to School

3: Come to my House

Facilities needed

Units 1 and 2 require direct use of the MapsDirect website. Unit 3 can be done offline, using information gathered previously.

Learning Objectives

Children should learn

- To investigate places
- To make maps and plans
- To use and interpret maps

Learning Outcomes

Children will:

- Locate their school and home on the map
- Draw a map of an area
- Plan and Measure a route from school to home

Points to Note

- Some children may live so far from the school that it won't be possible to see both home and school on the screen. It is suggested that they plan a route to visit a local amenity such as a swimming pool, recreation ground or shop that can be located on the map.
- Before printing the route ensure the computer is set to print landscape.

Units 4 to 5

Unit 4: Where is the locality in relation to other places? (Where is our town?)

Facilities needed

This unit requires the use of the Internet website Get-a-map.

Learning Objectives

Children should learn:

- To investigate places
- About the wider context of places
- To use and interpret maps

Learning Outcomes

Children will:

- Locate their town/village on maps at a range of scales
- Identify features on maps of different scales

Unit 5: What is the town/village like?

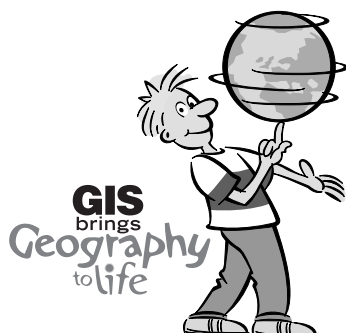
Facilities needed

This unit requires the use of the Internet websites MapsDirect and Get-a-map.

Learning Objectives

Children should learn:

- About physical and human features
- About land use in settlements
- To use and interpret maps



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Learning Outcomes

Children will:

- Identify main human and physical features of the locality
- Develop awareness and understanding of local land use

Points to Note

- Pupils need to be able to recognise typical map symbols such as airports, motorways, railways etc.
- Pupils need to change websites from MapsDirect to Get-a-map after task 7.
- The difference between physical and human is not always straightforward. For example are fields to be classified as natural or man-made?
- Pupils need prior knowledge of how to make a simple key.
- There is an opportunity here for pupils to use e-mail to exchange information about the locality with another school in a settlement of different size and character. If there is another village/town with the same name it would be interesting for pupils to compare the two.

Units 6

Unit 6: Links to Other Places

Facilities needed

This unit requires the use of the Internet website Get-a-map.

Learning Objectives

Children should learn

- About how the locality is linked with other places
- To use and interpret maps

Learning Outcomes

Children

- Describe a journey, including the route and type of transport
- Draw a simple map to show a route

Pupils' tasks

Links to Other Places

To do this task you will need to use the website Get-a-map.

1. Type in the name of your town or village and click on Go.
2. Click on the circles of the snake until you can see a map showing where you live and three or four towns you could go to for shopping or leisure. Write down the names of the towns.
3. Choose one of the towns. Find a map showing the town and where you live.
4. What roads would you go on to get there? Is there a railway linking the two?
5. Would you go by train, car or bus?
6. On paper, draw a map to show the route you have chosen.
7. Label any places you would go through, or features you would pass on the way, which would help someone follow your route.

