

Exploring my home

Key questions

- What is this place like?
- How might a place be improved?
- How can places be represented on a map?

Learning objectives

- To create a map.
- To consider how a place might be developed/changed.

Key vocab

- map
- valley/hill
- landmarks
- landscape
- land use
- services
- change
- direction
- local
- rural/urban

Working together

Pupils have a chat with a friend or a relative, preferably one who lives in a contrasting location: UK/abroad, coastal/inland, rural/urban, flat/mountainous, industrial/ agricultural, etc.

Pupils should describe a route from their house to some key locations nearby, discuss how this differs from their friend/relative.

Why not start by...

Asking the pupils to complete an A-Z of their home by walking around the house and garden to find something beginning with each letter of the alphabet.

Build on this by...

Getting the pupils to think about, where their house is and what they might find in the local area. Set the task to create a map of the local area using sticks, leaves and other miscellaneous things that they can find in their gardens (alternatively they could use things that they can find in their bedroom like beads, bricks, counters etc).

Watch this [video](#) for an example.



X-Curricular: Art

Use the leaves and sticks to create images that represent different places in their lives- how will school look different to Granny's house or the local park? Can the children reflect on how and why they might be different? Ask them to consider their emotional response as well as physical and human geography of each place.

What if...

You could redesign the whole area around where you live? What would you change?

Ask the children to use the free [Digimap for schools](#) (home schooling) login to find the map of their local area to redesign.

They can be as creative as they like and can use the annotation tools to add their thoughts to the map.

Extension opportunities

Ask pupils to justify the changes that they'd make to the local map ('What if...' activity).

They should explain their reasoning in terms of:

- physical geography, for example: I would place this building next to the river because...
- human geography- for example: I would place the playground next to the housing estate because...