

Get Your Bearings: Maps (Geography)

Key Stage 1 and 2

This learning resource is based upon our maps and compasses session at Bolton Abbey. We've revised it for you to do at home, in any available space. We hope you can get out in the fresh air to explore using maps. You don't need to know anything about maps to do these activities, and you can work through them at your own pace.

What you will do: Get creative making different forms of maps of the areas you know best.

What you will need: Paper and pencils; a collection of garden or household objects (choose things that are safe to handle and put on the floor); access to a computer or tablet, or a good old fashioned map of your area.

Learning Outcomes All learners will:

- Develop skills in looking at and reading a map of your local area
- Be able to identify local landmarks
- Know how to draw a map and make a more creative map
- Be able to create and follow simple routes on a map



Bolton Abbey is the perfect location for learning about the landscape and developing map-reading skills





Get Your Bearings: Maps (Geography) Activity 1

These activities will help you learn about maps, ready for when we can all go out exploring again. You can do them in any order to build your understanding depending on how much you already know. Where a partner is mentioned, this can be your parent, carer, or sibling/s. And don't forget that sometimes you can set the challenge up for the adult to complete!

1. Find a map

First of all find a map and an aerial photo of your local area. This can be done online or via an app on a phone. If you have a road atlas, Ordnance Survey map, or any other map of your area, try to use it instead. Remember that maps sometimes feature on tea towels, mugs or in picture frames.

2. Go local: Using a map of your local area, can you find:

-  Your house
-  Your school
-  Your local shop
-  Your friend's house

For KS 1 - Use the words below (taken from the National Curriculum) to describe some of the features you see on the map, and have a look out the window to spot which ones you can see from home. Talk about which features are near and far away, and which ones you have visited in other areas.

KS1 geographical words

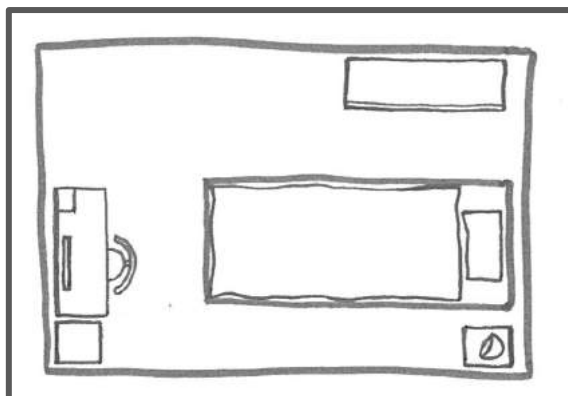
Physical features: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season, weather

Human features: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour, shop

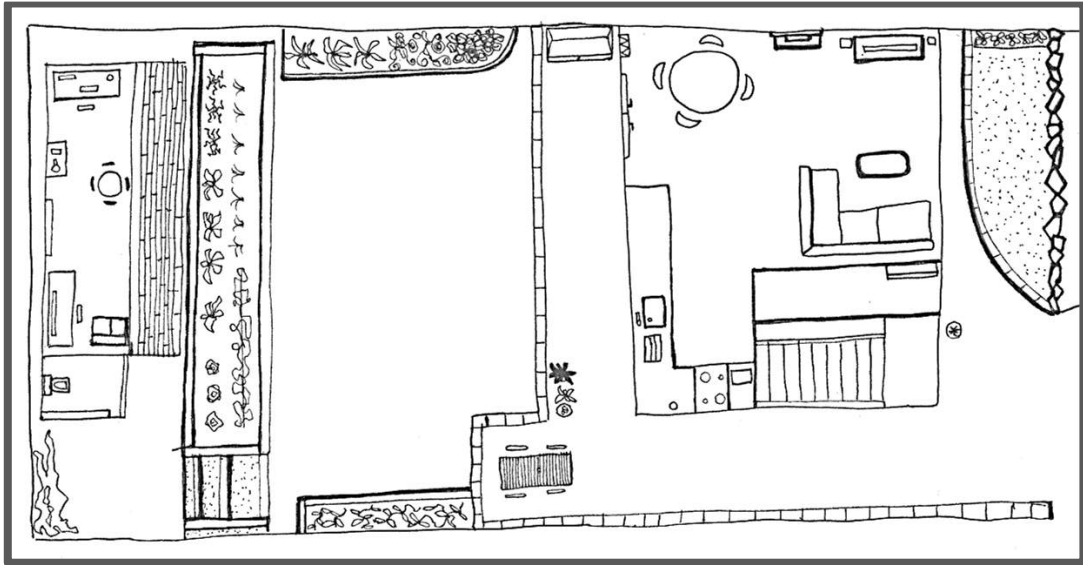
For KS 2 – Bring in some compass directions here (try using this resource alongside the compass resource we have created) e.g. find what lies to the north of your house, south of your school etc.

3. Make your own maps

Think about your own house. Start in your favourite room. Can you imagine that you are on the ceiling looking down on that room? Sketch out a quick bird's eye view of what you would see. Think about which objects you would need on a map and which ones you would leave out (if it's a bedroom just draw the furniture).



You've mapped your bedroom, now *zoom* out to the whole house. Sketch a quick map as if you're looking down on your whole house and garden.

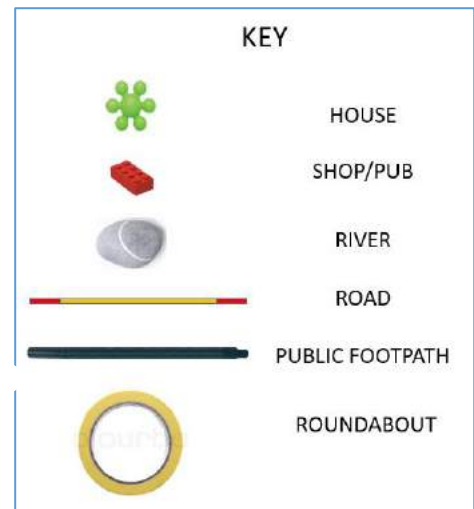


Get Your Bearings: Maps (Geography) Activity 2

For this activity, you are going to make your map on the ground, wherever you have space.

Gather together the materials you will use. These can be sticks, pebbles, pencils, building blocks or other small toys. Make sure they are safe, clean and dry before you use them.



Make a map of your surrounding area, (see example below). How many local features can you remember? Next time you go out, walk around the block to see if there are any roads or buildings that you have forgotten to include. You might find it easier if you ask someone to help you make a *key* for your map, which will help anyone who looks at it to identify key features.



This map was made by Ben (aged 6) and Toby (aged 8)

Get Your Bearings: Maps (Geography) Activity 3

Choose one of the sketch maps you have drawn. Mark a target on the map and then mark a route for your partner to follow. Can you set them the longest and shortest routes between the same two points? E.g from front door to back door:

-  Route 1: Straight through hall, living room, kitchen
-  Route 2: Walk around the perimeter of each room, then up the stairs and round each bedroom, back downstairs and around the table on way to the door.

If you would like to extend your learning and include compass directions, see our compass session for more. You could also plan a walk in your local area, using a compass and creating a map. Be sure to keep a two-metre distance from other people and stay safe while you do this. Perhaps you can work as a team and record how long the walk takes you!

Here are the curriculum links these activities will cover:

Geography KS1 & 2	PSHE KS1 & 2	English KS2
KS1 Use simple compass directions (North, South, East, West) and locational language to describe the location of features and routes on a map	Build confidence and resilience in learning outside of the classroom;	Continual development of pupils' confidence and competence in spoken language and listening skills
KS1 Use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features and routes on a map		
KS2 Use the eight points of a compass, four and six figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the UK and wider world		
KS2 Use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs and digital technologies		