

Physical

map of the British Isles



Teacher's notes

Physical map of the British Isles

Learning objectives

Children should learn:

- about the location of their home locality in relation to physical features of the British Isles

Learning outcomes

Children will be able to:

- locate their home locality on a physical map of the British Isles
- identify physical geographical features of the British Isles

NC programme of study

2a, 3b, 3c, 7a, 7b

LCP Resource Files link

Unit 6 Lesson 2

Introduction

Talk to the children about the types of resources they would use to find out where their home locality is (atlases, road maps, CD-ROMs). Talk about different scales of maps (local, regional, national, global) and show examples of an OS map, a country map and a world map. Explain that the purpose of this lesson is to consider a physical map (one that shows natural features) of the British Isles and locate on it where the children live.

Ideas for using Flipbook page 1

Using the flipbook picture as a prompt, invite the children to list the physical features shown on the map (mountains, hills, rivers, lakes, lowlands, estuaries, coastlines). Ask the children the key questions and point out the significant places on the map.

Key questions

- **What are the two largest islands of the British Isles?** (Great Britain and Ireland)
- **What are the two countries that make up the British Isles?** (Republic of Ireland and United Kingdom)
- **Which parts make up the United Kingdom?** (England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland)
- **What are the largest mountain areas in Wales and Scotland called?** (the Cambrian Mountains, the Grampian Mountains)
- **What are the largest mountain areas in England called?** (the Lake District, the Pennines)
- **What are the highest peaks in England, Wales and Scotland?** (Scafell Pike, Snowdon, Ben Nevis)
- **What is the longest river in the British Isles?** (Shannon, in Ireland)
- **What are the three longest rivers in the UK?** (Severn, Thames, Trent)
- **What are the seas around the UK called?** (the English Channel, the North Sea, the Irish Sea)

Instructions for Activity sheet 1

Ask the children to imagine that there are aliens looking down on the British Isles from a spaceship, and they need to land in the school's locality. On the outline map, the children should add the physical features shown on the map in the flipbook, and mark on a suitable landing zone for the aliens. Ask the children to complete the message about the school's location, so that the aliens can report back to their base with instructions for future travellers.

Activity sheet 1

Physical map of the British Isles

- Label the physical features on the map (rivers, seas and mountains).
- Mark on the map the landing zone for the aliens.
- Complete this message to base:

'Landing zone confirmed: it is located in _____ (*name of country*),
_____ (*north, south, east or west*) of _____ (*mountains*). It is
_____ (*north, south, east or west*) of the River _____.
The _____ (*name of sea*) lies to the _____
(*north, south, east or west*).'

