

Practical activities

Feature detective walk

Resources required – none

Some organisation required for this activity, e.g. extra adults, risk assessment if going out of the school grounds. Take the children out on a walk around the school grounds or surrounding area. Ask the children to identify and discuss different human and physical features that they see, such as buildings, roads, rivers, trees and hills. Return to the classroom and discuss what they saw and describe each of the features, sorting them into human and physical.

Picture sorting

Resources required – images of human and physical features, sorting hoops

Sit the children in a circle with two sorting hoops in the centre, labelled 'human features' and 'physical features'. Give the children a range of different images of human and physical features. Ask them to think about what their picture shows, where they might see this feature, which hoop it will go in and why. Allow time for the children to discuss their ideas with the person next to them before sorting the images as a class. Clarify any misconceptions.

Feature mapping

Resources required – local area map

Source a simple map of the local area surrounding the school, or create one to use. The children should work with a partner or in a small group to label the features using sticky notes or coloured pens. Then, children could add their own features to their maps to create their ideal place! Children present their maps to the class, describing the new features they have added and why.

Feature storyteller

Resources required – none

Create a story starter that involves your journey to school every day and the human and physical features that you see on the way. Model this to the children. You could even create your own story map to go with it! Display the story starter on the board for the children to continue with their own journey. Children work in pairs to tell a story of their journey to school every day and the features they see. Share ideas as a class, what was the same? What was different? Why?

Scavenger hunt

Scavenger hunt activity sheet

Take children on a walk around the school grounds or in the surrounding area and ask children to identify and tick the physical and human features they see. Alternatively children can tick what they see on their journey to and from school.

Build the local area

Construction resources (e.g. bricks, blocks, Lego etc.), images or maps of the local area

Provide the children with maps and images of the local area or have them displayed in the construction area for children to build a model of the local area using construction resources. Encourage children to label the buildings etc. that they build and discuss whether they are human or physical features.

