

Practical activity ideas

Note to the teacher – If your children need to review their learning, you can use these activities to support them.

Sorting settlements

The resources required for this activity include settlement sorting photographs and features, sorting hoops and labels.

Activity: Sit the children in a circle with three sorting hoops in the centre, labelled 'village', 'town' and 'city'. Read through the feature cards together and place them in the correct hoop. Then give the children photographs of different types of settlements in the UK and ask them to sort the photos into the hoops based on the features they can observe. Encourage the children to explain and justify their choices using the sentence starter: "I think this is a _____ because..."

Let's investigate - What are the key settlements in my region/county?

The resources required for this activity include settlement sorting photographs and features, sorting hoops and labels.

Activity: Place the map in the middle of the table (or display on the whiteboard). Begin by discussing and marking your own location on the map. Look at the surrounding settlements, noting those printed in bold or larger font.

Discussion prompts:

- Have you heard of this settlement?
- Have you visited this settlement?
- Is it a village, town or city?
- What do you know about the features of this place?

Act it out - What makes my county special?

The resources required for this activity include a whiteboard and pen for gathering ideas.

Activity: Lead a whole-class discussion about what makes your county special. Encourage children to think broadly – this could include local traditions or festivals, activities that are popular in the area, a famous type of food or drink, an important landmark, or even a significant historical event. Record all ideas on the whiteboard in a mind map to show how many different features contribute to the character of a county.

For example, if focusing on Devon, your list might include: enjoying a cream tea, the maritime festival, surfing on the coast, fishing in a seaside town, walking on Dartmoor, Sir Francis Drake and Dartmoor ponies.

Once the list is complete, invite a volunteer to choose one idea and act it out silently for the class (for example preparing then eating a cream tea). The rest of the children try to guess what characteristic of the county is being represented.

Memory game

The resources required for this activity include the 'Counties of England' map resource, paper and pencil.

Activity: Show the children a map of the counties of England and give them one minute to study it. After this time, cover the map and ask them to recall, either written or verbally, as many counties as they can remember. Repeat the activity and encourage the children to beat their previous score. Alternatively, you may choose to focus only on the counties in your own region.

