Practical activity ideas

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

Human globe

The resources needed for this activity are long rope/string, large open space, continent/ocean floor labels, equator sign cards.

Activity: Children stand in a large circle in the classroom or hall to represent the Earth. Place a rope or string across the circle to mark the equator. Pupils stand on different 'continents' (labelled cards on the floor) and discuss whether they are in the northern or southern hemisphere.

Map and globe hunt

The resources needed for this activity include globes, atlases, prepared hunt checklist sheet or whiteboards, pencils.

Activity: Children are given both a globe and an atlas. In pairs, they complete a hunt checklist: find the equator, northern/southern hemispheres, one continent and one ocean. Pupils record their findings by drawing small sketches in their books or on a worksheet.

Hemisphere sorting game

The resources needed for this activity include picture cards of countries/landmarks/animals, globes or atlases, sorting mats labelled northern hemisphere and southern hemisphere.

Activity: Provide children with a set of picture cards showing countries, landmarks or animals (e.g. Eiffel Tower, kangaroo, polar bear, Statue of Liberty). Children work in groups to sort the cards into northern hemisphere or southern hemisphere, using a map or globe to check their reasoning.

Global grid game

The resources needed for this activity include chalk (if outside) or masking tape, feature cards (e.g. a boat, a whale, an island).

Activity: Create a giant grid on the floor. Use red tape for the equator (latitude) and blue tape for the prime meridian (longitude). Place feature cards in different sections of the grid. Children must 'navigate' to a card by following instructions: "Move two lines north of the equator, then three lines east of the prime meridian." Once they reach the card, they must announce their location: "I am in the northern hemisphere."