

Geography Alive: Early Stage 1 Geography (Unit 2)

Lesson 2: Our local environment		
<p>Content focus:</p> <p>In this lesson students are exposed to a range of maps. This gives students the opportunity to explore an array of their features. In doing so, students will study a map of their local area and discuss the different features of the map. Students will look at a pictures map and also have the opportunity to explore Google Maps</p>		<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide students with a range of maps. These can range from treasure maps, maps of local areas, maps of school and/or classroom, street directories, an atlas or a GPS-based map. These items can be displayed for the class to visit and explore. • Access to Google Earth • Worksheet 1: Sample neighbourhood map activity • Interactive whiteboard • Enlarged teacher copy of the neighbourhood map included on Worksheets 1 • Colour pencils and glue
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can we use maps for? • What are some features of a map? 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies places and develops an understanding of the importance of places • communicates geographical information and uses geographical tools 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Ask students – What is an environment? What kind of things they might find in their environment? Are there any parks located near their house? Or shops and sporting fields? These are all places that can be found in your local environment. • Step 2: Display the enlarged copy of the neighbourhood map and discuss with students what they can see. Ask students what else they have in the area around their homes that are not displayed on the map. Read through the instructions with students and ask students to complete the instructions independently. <i>Assessment:</i> Students are able to locate places on a map independently. • Step 3: When students have completed the specified task they are permitted to colour in the rest of the map. • Step 4: Students access Google Earth and search the location of their school. What other places can they see on the image/map? Are there any parks or train stations? • Step 5: Students are asked to brainstorm the places that they may see in their environment. As they do, develop a mind map on a whiteboard. Use pictures of places such as parks, trains, buses, schools and shops to display around the mind map. Instruct students how to use Google to find photographs of their local area. Display mind map in the classroom. For students to refer back to. • Additional task: Students can be asked to draw a map of their home and their street. Ask students if there are any parks near their house they could add to their maps. Ask a few students to share their maps to the class.