

Geography: What can we learn from a map of Handsworth?

Year 3 Autumn 1

Key Facts

Why should we learn about maps?

Maps are works of art. There are many types of maps, but they all communicate information, spatially and pictorially, about a particular area, from a theme park to a country to the world. Understanding maps is an important geographical and life skill, which can be improved with good knowledge of directions and compass points, distance and scale, features, symbols and grid references.

- **Grids and grid references**

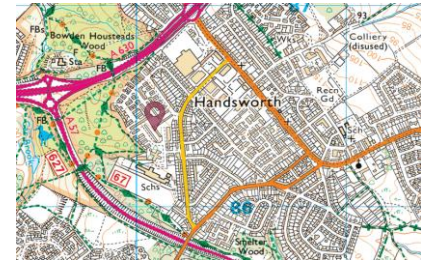
To make it easier for us to locate a particular place on a map, maps frequently have grids superimposed on them with grid codes used to index an exact location.

- **Map symbols and keys**

A map is a pictorial form of communication, but it can't show everything in a single image. Map-makers are selective about the information they include and ensure clarity of understanding by using colours, patterns and symbols. Children's pictorial maps and OS maps show two extremes of the information and level of detail included in maps.

- **Scale and scale bars**

The scale of a map explains how large an area (shown pictorially) is in real life. Maps are often referred to as small-, medium- or large-scale. Small-scale maps depict a large area but with little detail (e.g. a world map); large-scale maps show a smaller area in more detail (e.g. a town or place in the UK).



Key Vocabulary

Cartographer – A person who makes maps.

Economic – In the context of this unit, this means land being used to sell goods and services.

Map – An image that shows how a place is laid out.

OS Map – Maps made by Ordnance survey. They make different scale maps for different purposes.

OS Symbols – The standard conventions used by the OS to represent features on an OS map.

Plot – To mark a route or position on a map.

Residential – In the context of this unit, land being used for homes.

Scale – Scale changes the size of things shown on a map.

Tourism – Travel for recreational, leisure or business purposes.

Why don't you...

- Find out which wall or corner of your house faces north? Use a map to find out which places lie in that direction.
- Create a treasure map of Handsworth? You could even include grid references and a set of instructions to guide its user towards the buried treasure.
- Make a note of all the road signs you pass on your way to school? What do they all mean?

Enquiry Questions

- Which map should I use?
- Where is Athelstan?
- What can we learn from map symbols and keys?
- How does our local land use compare with Ambleside?
- What can a map tell us about the history of Handsworth?
- What information can be communicated about our local area using a map?

Geographical Skills

- Identify key features of a locality by using a map.
- Use a 4-figure grid reference.
- Describe and understand types of settlements and how land is used within them.
- Begin to use and recognise OS symbols.
- Begin to use the 8 points of a compass.

Website Links

Maps – BBC Teach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxTqLAJ6u58>

Geography Skills – BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zs9ydnb>

Geographical Concepts

Scale – understanding the big picture as well as our experiences in day-to-day life. The concept of scale is about the way that geographical phenomena and problems can be examined at different spatial levels.

Space - examining how natural and man-made spaces fit together. Space involves looking at the significance of location and spatial distribution, and ways people organise and manage the spaces that