

# Digimap for Schools

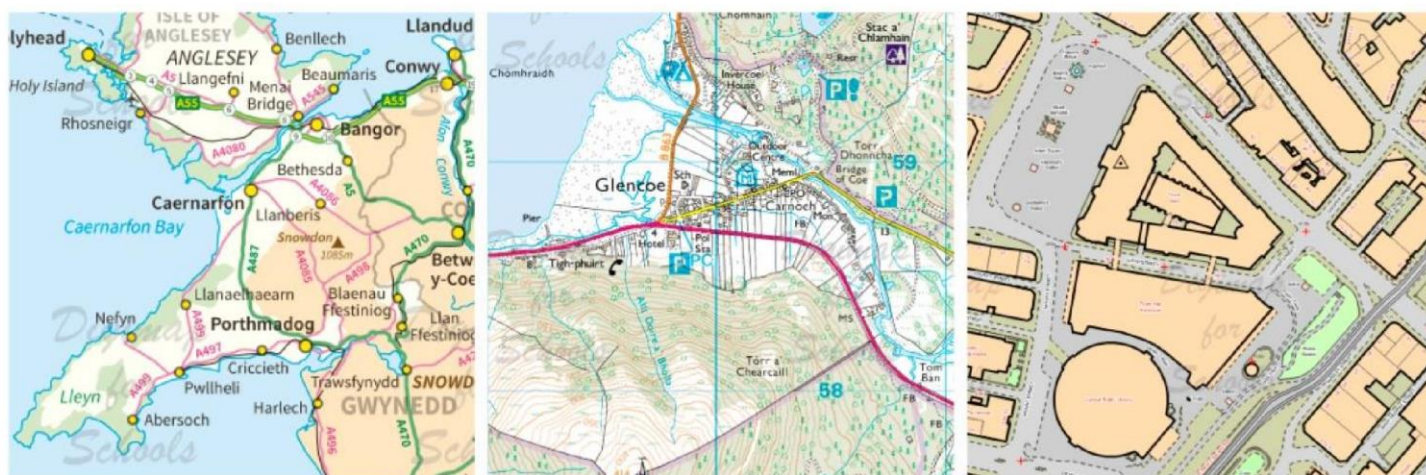
## Capital Stops

Capital cities of Great Britain

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Geography teaching resource

Primary



This is one of a series of teaching resources for use with Digimap for Schools. For more details about this service, visit <http://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk>

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<http://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk>

## Digimap for Schools Geography Resources

**Title: Capital Stops**

Level	Context	Location
Primary	Capital cities of Great Britain	London, Cardiff, Edinburgh

Knowledge/Skills	Use the zoom function on map/locate places on a map/draw an area on a map/add labels
Curriculum links (England)	Locating and naming capital cities in GB using appropriate geographical vocabulary, using and making maps
Curriculum links (Wales)	Knowledge and Understanding of the World: Use and make simple maps to find where places are and how they relate to other places.
Scottish Curriculum for Excellence	Social Studies Outcomes: People, Place and Environment: 2-08a, 2-13a, 2-14a

### Activity

Pupils locate the capital cities of Great Britain and approximately mark their urban boundaries using the 'Area' tool. Once located they describe the location of these places and some of the features you might find there. They also search for given locations and identify which city they belong to.

### Introduction

Great Britain is the political entity made up of England, Scotland, Wales and their offshore islands. It does not include the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands or Northern Ireland.

A capital city is usually the centre of government and administration and often the largest city in the country. Digimap for Schools gives coverage of Great Britain at different scales so that pupils can appreciate the location of cities and towns and also zoom into find particular named, landmarks such as the Houses of Parliament.

Capital city landmarks like these can also be explained using aerial images

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## Main activity

1. Discuss the capital cities of Great Britain

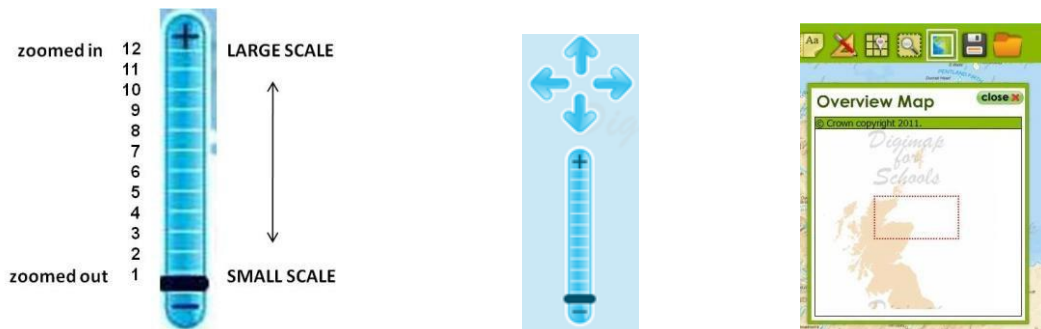
- England, London (also the capital of the UK)
- Wales, Cardiff
- Scotland, Edinburgh

2. Ask the pupils some questions about capital cities. For example:

- a. What is a capital city?
- b. Which of these places have they been to?
- c. What do they know about these places?

3. Locate and mark the capitals London, Cardiff and Edinburgh using the following process:

Ask pupils to zoom in one level using the scale bar and look for these places. They should use the **arrow direction tool** above the scale bar to move the map (to stay on this scale do not enter the place name in search) they may also find it useful to open the Overview Map from the toolbar and to place this over to the left of the screen.



4. For each capital city they are going to shade the urban area around it.

To do this they need to open the **Annotation Toolbar** and make sure the 'Transparency' is set to 50%.

Then select 'Draw Area' then 'Draw a freeform shape'. Click and hold the mouse, dragging around the darker shading showing the area of the city. Click once to finish.



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While the City of London is the heart of London, the area called London includes the built up busy area around the city heart where lots of people live and work.



Zoom out to the smallest scale where all three cities are shown. Use the draw a line tool to connect the three capitals in a triangle. This provides an easy way to remember their relative positions.



Print it out.

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5 Discuss the results with the pupils

- What did they notice about the position of these cities?
- Which is furthest North/South/East/West?
- Which has the largest urban area?
- Which is nearest the coastline of Europe?
- Are there any cities bigger than any of the capitals within each country?

## Taking it further

- Hand out the worksheet 'City Search' for pupils to search for some given places; find out which capital they belong to and see what they can find out about them.
- Add the school location to the capitals map by adding a marker and a label. Which capital is nearest? How far away is it?
- Zoom into the map so that you can see the school location and the nearest capital city. Select the Measuring tool from the toolbar and click on the school location and then drag it to the city to find out the distance in kilometres.
  
- Plan a day out to a city. How will you get there? What will you see? Research places you might go to and mark them on a large scale map of the city using a postcode search.
- Find out what rivers these cities are built on. Gather other information and make some 'Capital Fact Files'.

## Web links

[www.scottish.parliament.uk/](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/)

<http://www.assembly.wales/en/Pages/Home.aspx>

[www.parliament.uk/visiting/](http://www.parliament.uk/visiting/)

[www.cardiffbay.co.uk/](http://www.cardiffbay.co.uk/)

[www.visitlondon.com/events/](http://www.visitlondon.com/events/)

[www.edinburgh.org/](http://www.edinburgh.org/)

[www.visitcardiff.com/](http://www.visitcardiff.com/)

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## City Search

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Search the map using the 'Search box' to try and find these places. What can you find out about them? Add a place of your own.

Look for	What city?	What sort of a place is this?
Houses of Parliament		
Holyrood Park		
Cardiff Bay		
Arthur's Seat		
Cathays Park		
Buckingham Palace		

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