

Digimap for Schools

The Locality Detectives

Mapping similarities and differences

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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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Digimap for Schools Geography Resources.

Title: The Locality Detectives

| Level | Context | Location |
|---------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Primary | Mapping similarities and differences | Leysdown-on-Sea, Kent, and Prestatyn, Denbighshire, North Wales are used, but you could use this activity anywhere in GB |

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Knowledge | Identifying and naming features on maps. Annotating using symbols and markers. Adding labels. Describing and comparing places |
| Curriculum links (England) | Use digital/computer mapping to locate and describe features studied; describe and understand key aspects of human and physical geography |
| Curriculum links (Wales) | Identify similarities and differences to describe, compare and contrast places and environments. |
| Scottish Curriculum for Excellence | Social Studies Outcomes: People, Place and Environment: 2-13a, 2-14a |

Activity

Making maps to show similarities and differences between your own and another locality

Introduction

Leysdown-on-Sea and Prestatyn are both seaside resorts, though while Leysdown is the size of a large village, Prestatyn is a town with a much greater resident population. *Digimap for Schools* is used to enable pupils to investigate close up, and at other scales, just how similar and different places are.

This activity is intended to be applied to your home locality and a contrasting locality of your choice. These two places are used as examples to show how you might set the activity up. The activity lends itself well to going out on fieldwork as it might be done before or afterwards to find out what pupils know or have learnt.

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Main activity

How well do you know your local area? What are its characteristics? What kinds of man-made and natural features does it have? Make a class list from memory.

Maps give lots of information if we can be like detectives and find the clues. Model being a map detective using *Digimap for Schools* on an interactive whiteboard (IWB). Challenge pupils to identify and name as many features as they can find in a minute, using different map scales and referring to the map keys as required. Make a list and compare to original brainstorm.

Once pupils are confident in their knowledge of local features (most of which they are probably familiar with) move on to look at your chosen contrasting locality. You could do a brainstorm first of what features pupils think they will find there before looking at the map of this place.

Tasks

Keep the original map of the home area on the IWB for pupils to refer to, or have printed copies available. Pupils could work individually, in pairs or in small groups depending on their ability.

1. Ask pupils to open a map of the area you want. Remind them that they can zoom in to spot features and use the Key to help them identify symbols. They should make notes and report back.

Give a set time to do this and have a competition to see who can find the most features. Here's an example of one pupil's lists.

Leysdown

- Beach (pebbly)
- Sea
- Caravan park
- Houses
- Shops
- Roads
- Pub
- Playground
- Park
- Police station
- Groynes

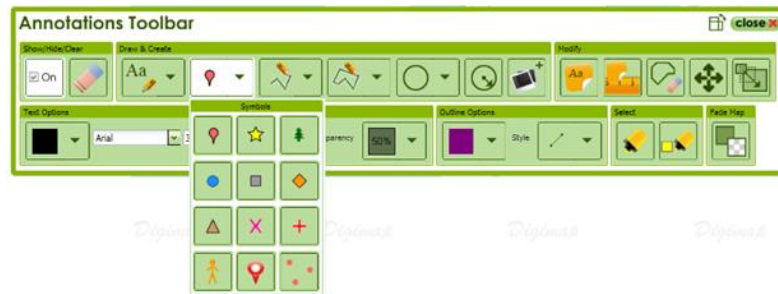
Prestatyn

- Beach (sandy)
- Sea
- Caravan park
- Houses
- Shops
- Roads
- Pub
- Playground
- Park
- Police station
- Sand dunes
- Groynes
- Hotel
- Railway station
- Fire station

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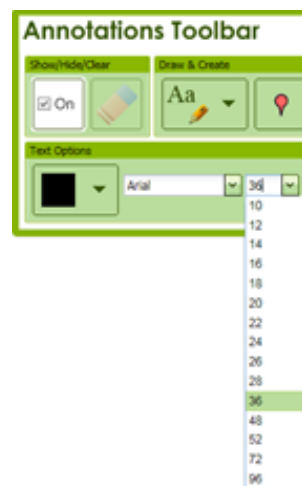
<http://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk>

2. Ask pupils to add different coloured icons and labels to the map to highlight some of the main similarities and differences with your home area. Open up the Annotations toolbar and select the 'Place Marker', choosing the icon wanted; to show features that are similar in both places. Click on these features in the map to add them.



Choose a different icon to show features that are different and click to add markers to these as well.

Then select a text font, colour and size (try size 18) and use 'Place label'. Click beside the features marked to name them.



Labels may need to be moved so that they can be seen as clearly as possible. Select the 'Move Feature' from the 'Modify' section of the toolbar to click and drag labels.



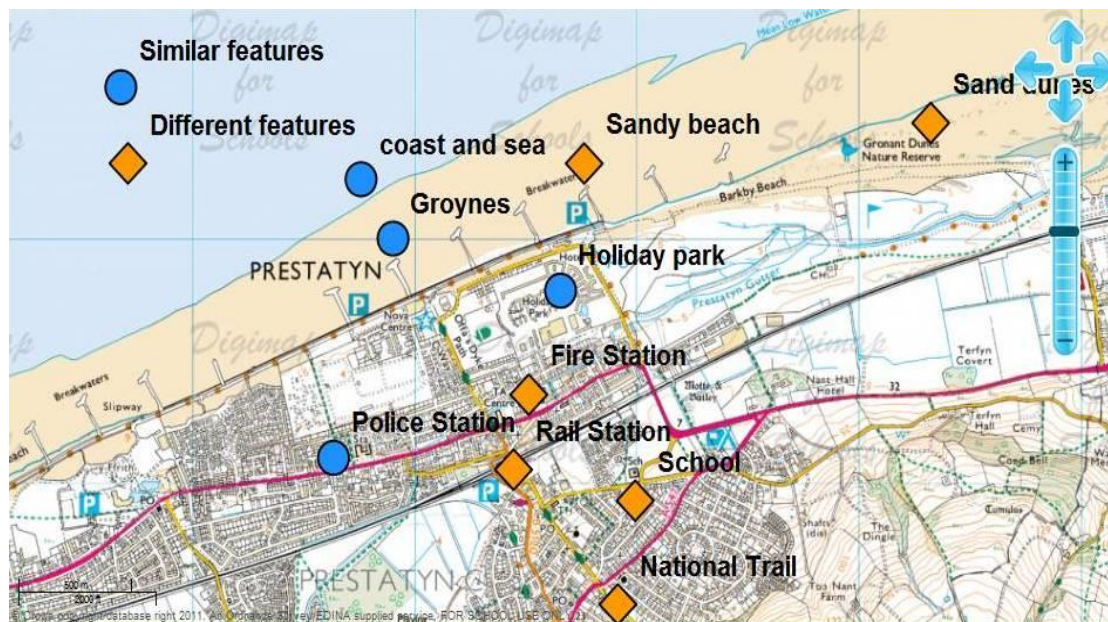
If there is space on the map, add a Key to say which markers show similar and which different features.

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3. Give the map a title and save it.

Some similarities and differences between Prestatyn and Leysdown



The worksheets may be useful to help pupils sort similar and different features. Some pupils could be doing this while others make their maps.

Discuss with the class what you have found out from searching the maps. For example, how do the places compare for size? Use terms such as village, hamlet, town or city. What reasons might explain some of the similarities and differences?

This idea could be repeated with a variety of different places using pupils' suggestions.

Taking it further

- Pupils compile a quiz about these two places. Use as an assessment activity to test the whole class.
- Make an advert to persuade people to come and live in a particular place or to have a holiday there. Write and perform the script and film.
- Use Twitter to Tweet the key features of a place. Decide what the most important features are as you have a limited number of characters.
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- Set up a blogging link with another school and send each other maps and information about your locality.
- Start a 'Place Profile' either as a written book or an online document. Decide what the most important headings should be and illustrate each page with a different place and its key features. Make a map of all the places you have covered and keep it updated as you add more.
- Investigate what kind of jobs people do in these places and ask how are jobs and the characteristics of a place connected?
- Use a list of the main features of your locality and see if you can detect a place that is very similar to yours.

Make a list of opposites e.g. coastal – inland, hilly – flat, rural – urban and so on and use these new criteria to find a place that is very different to yours?

Web links

Geograph has over 5 million photographs of Great Britain, searchable by geographic term and location <http://schools.geograph.org.uk/>

Making Geography Happen Project: understanding the local area
www.geography.org.uk/projects/makinggeographyhappen/understandingthelocalarea/thegeography

School Linking information www.schoolslinkingnetwork.org.uk/

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Comparison between _____ and _____

Different features at _____

Different features at _____

The same

Name: _____

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Draw or write some of the similarities and differences between these places

Name: _____

