



School Travel Plans

P3 Mapping Workshop

Preparation

Objective To understand directions, the points of the compass and prepare travel to school maps.

Time 35 to 45 minutes (15 to 20 mins for explanation, rest for maps)

Materials

- ★ Compass
- ★ Map of world (large)
- ★ Globe
- ★ A4 sheets (1 per pupil)
- ★ Pencils / pens
- ★ (Optional – Walking Distance map, if your school has one)

Running the Workshop

Questions are in bold, instructions are highlighted, answers are in normal font.

1. Introduction to maps etc. (15-20 minutes)

What are maps? Maps are pictures / drawings showing where places are and / or how to get there.

Show the globe: **What is this and what does it do?** It is a globe, which is a map of the earth in the shape of our planet.

- Point to the North Pole: **What is this called?**
- Point to the South Pole: **What is this called?**
- **Why are they called the North and South poles?** Because are in the North and South! The North Pole is North of everywhere on the Earth and the South Pole is south of everywhere (give examples).

Show the compass: **What is this? What does it do?** It is a compass and is used to show directions: the red arrow points to the North Pole (KEEPING THE COMPASS FLAT, turn it round and show pupils that North ALWAYS points in the same direction. Identify the direction of the North Pole from the classroom; show that South is the opposite direction to North).

- **Apart from North and South, what other main directions does a compass show?** East and West (identify where these are using the compass)
- **What are North, South, East and West used for?** They give us directions, which are used to describe where things are.

Place the world map on large table, pointing North; group pupils around; find Scotland.

- **If we wanted to travel to the North Pole from Scotland, which direction would we have to go in?** North!
- **If we wanted to travel to Africa, from Scotland, which direction would we have to go in?** South
- **If you have time, try a few more...**

Do all maps look the same? What else can we use maps for? Pupils to suggest: e.g. bus route maps, treasure maps, walking distance maps...

- **If your school has a Walking Distance map, show it to pupils: What does this map show?** It shows the time it takes to walk to school from different houses around the school.
- **Point to one house and identify how many minutes' walk it is from the school**
- **What helps you find which house is yours?** The position of buildings, shops and railway lines; the names of streets, rivers and bridges.

2. Preparing walk to school maps (20-25 minutes)

Pupils will make their own map of their journey to school. Do an example of your journey so they can see what is expected (see below).

- Identify your house and its direction relative to the school (Is it North? East? In between North and East i.e. Northeast – explain this briefly).
- If, for example, your house is Southeast of the school, draw your house in the Southeastern corner of your paper and the school in the Northwestern corner. Add a compass rose to remind yourself of this.
- Draw your journey: use a green line for bits you walk, red for bits you drive, orange for bus and blue for cycle; add visible landmarks (bridges, supermarkets, playing fields, rivers, friends' houses etc). Label bus stops, bus numbers you take and important streets. Explain to pupils that they should be able to use the map to find your house.
- If pupils finish early, have them add detail, colour etc.

