

Teach your pupils how to find north on a map

Teachers Guide: Map Reading

This is an opportunity for the pupils to use a map in the landscape and learn to identify various features from a map in the landscape. A map has been provided with boxes to fill in on their walk. Alternatively it can be completed in the classroom, before and after the walk.

Learning where north is on a map

North is always facing vertical towards the top of the map as you would read a book.

Teach pupils how to use a compass.

1. Hold the compass still until the arrow in the centre has stopped moving.
2. Turn around until the arrow is pointing to N on the compass dial.
3. Now you have located north.
4. Place the map below the compass and line up the blue vertical grid lines on the map with the north compass point. Make sure the north compass point is pointing to the top of the map.
5. The map and compass are now aligned in the correct orientation. If you know where you are on the map you can identify landmarks shown on the map. You can now read the compass coordinates for the direction in which the landmark lies.



For the first activity the pupils will be asked to draw a compass showing north, south, east and west, adding NE, SE, SW, and NW if they can.

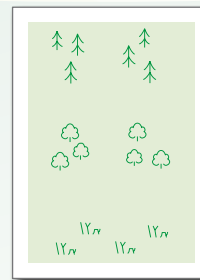
If doing the exercise in school let the children try this in the playground and ask them to locate the direction of various playground or other notable features in relation to North.



Identifying landscape features on the walk

Identifying landscape features

The map key shows features which can be found on a map e.g. road type, footpath, church, wood, parking, etc. Ask the pupils to locate a wood and footpath on the map and to label them.



Ancient woodland boundary

Ancient woodland is identified by a wood with veteran trees, old banks and ditches, wood anemones and yellow archangel and ransoms to name a few indicators.

There are also two questions for the pupils to answer once they have finished their walk. Did they see some ancient woodland and did they walk on footpaths?



Wood Anemone



Ransom

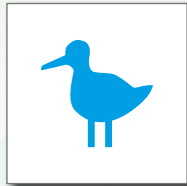
The Kent Downs Landscape Education Project is part funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Kent County Council, Natural England and the European Regional Development Fund's Interreg IVA France (Manche Channel) England Programme.



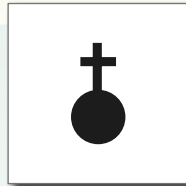
*Recognise
landscape
features on the
map*

Reading the key recognising landscape features on the map

The pupils will be asked to name two features seen in the Key of the map but not featured on the map; it could be a nature reserve, a church with a spire or a car park.



Nature Reserve



Church with a spire



Car Park

In School: Identify a favourite landscape feature

Lead a discussion about which landscape features the children prefer and why. This can be used to identify the class' favourite landscape by inserting the data collected from the discussion and in a spreadsheet and interrogating it using ICT.

The chalk downland formed by fossilised sea creatures

This is the chalk hill formed 65 million years ago from minute compressed fossilised sea creatures to form chalk. It is now a habitat which is home to various flower, and butterfly species which are rare and protected e.g. the Lady orchid and the Adonis Blue butterfly.



The top of the hills where you can see the landscape pattern

Standing high on the hills it is possible to see the patterns of the landscape, the dry valleys, the ancient woodlands the hedgerows, orchards and different farming types.

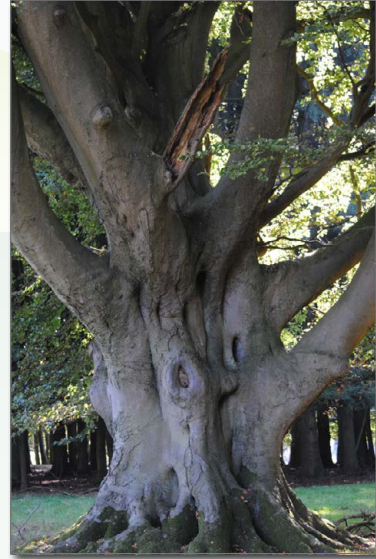
The Kent Downs Landscape Education Project is part funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, Kent County Council, Natural England and the European Regional Development Fund's Interreg IVA France (Manche Channel) England Programme.



*Choose a
favourite
landscape
feature*

The ancient woodlands with trees gnarled and old

Many of the woods in the Kent Downs are ancient woods. Within these ancient woodlands you may find veteran trees which a large girth size depending on species. They are living relics of incredible age that create in us feelings of awe and mystery and support wildlife that cannot live anywhere else.



The farming

Grassland, sheep, cattle, corn and farmstead – traditional farming on the downs is represented by grazing of livestock such as sheep and cattle, but many other forms of farming can be found such as the growing of corn together with their traditional farms nestling in the landscape.