

This activity should be undertaken before your visit to the Spinnaker Tower.

CURRICULUM LINKS

GEOGRAPHY – To use simple compass directions and locational and directional language to describe the location of features and routes on a map.

ENGLISH – Planning and saying out loud what they are going to write about.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To use geographical language to describe maps and to make a map of the classroom.

RESOURCES

For this activity you will need:

- › Interactive whiteboard.
- › Maps, including OS maps of the UK
- › Photographs of your school
- › Class set of compasses – one between two
- › Cameras
- › A3 paper, coloured pencils & felt tip pens
- › Non-fiction resources including books and websites including:
 - [Google Earth](#): this needs to be downloaded before you begin. Alternatively go to [Google Maps](#) and click on the “earth” button in the bottom left hand corner:
 - [Time Lapse of the Earth](#) – Watch the earth change over 32 years.

STARTER

- › Begin by asking children to work in groups to try and describe what a map is.
- › Ask a member of each group to come to the whiteboard and note all relevant vocabulary used in their suggestions.
- › Next put up the Ordnance Survey link on your whiteboard:
<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk>
- › Type in the address Gun Wharf Quay, Portsmouth or grid reference SZ 62965 99915 into the search box in the top left hand corner. Tell the children that you are going to visit Spinnaker Tower and you will have a “birds eye view” when you go up the Tower.
- › Ask the children to comment on the map – for example – maps look at places from above. Maps are drawings or images of objects from above.
- › You are going to begin learning about maps by making a map of your classroom.

MAIN TEACHING

- › Explain to the children that they are going to draw a map of the classroom from a birds eye view.
- › Ask the children to come up with the rules of map making. Take feedback. Agree on a class set of rules.
- › Explain to the children that they should mark on their maps the compass directions on their maps.
- › Give out compasses – one between two. Ask the children to stand up and face North.
- › Now ask the children to face South. Does the needle of the compass move to the South? No – it always faces North.

- Repeat with East and West. Ask the children to face each direction without using the compass.
 - Now the children are going to draw a map of the classroom. Ask them to work in pairs and to make sure all their drawings are from above. Give out large sheets of paper and pens for the children to create the drawing.
 - If children struggle with drawing from above, give out cameras, so that they can take pictures of the objects in the classroom from above to understand the dimensions of the objects.
 - Remind children that they should mark North, East, South and West on their map of the classroom.
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PLENARY

- Ask children to put their maps on their tables and to walk around and have a “gallery” of maps. Make comments on the maps and ask them to self-assess their work. Make a class display of the maps.