

What are places and spaces?

Have fun sharing ideas about the features that make your local area special

Age 5 - 7

30 – 40 minutes

Children need some knowledge of geographical vocabulary relating to places

Resources you can use include pictures of local/contrasting places, board/flip chart, paper and pens

Outcome: Pupils understand what defines a place and identify what makes their local area a place

How it works

For this activity, pupils should work in small groups or pairs to discuss their ideas.

Ask children to discuss what it is that makes a place a place. You can show them pictures of contrasting places to get children thinking and use the prompt questions:

- Is it a village, town, a city?
- People – what kind of people make up the areas? Young, old, nationality.
- Weather: how does the weather and weather patterns affect the appearance of an area. Does weather define a place?
- Buildings: are they tall? New? Close together?
- What type of landscapes are there? Hilly, flat, coastal?

Groups share their ideas and teacher/child writes the ideas on the board/flipchart.

Next, ask the children to think in pairs about their local place and what makes it a place.

- What features does it have? Why is it important? What makes it a pleasant place to live? How would they describe it to someone who has never visited?

Remind the children to use the ideas from the previous discussion to think about the people who live there, the languages spoken, the landscape and weather. In pairs children can record their ideas in a spider diagram or similar record.

Finally, ask the children to decide which two ideas they feel are the most important features that make their place a place. Share ideas as a class. Come up with a class definition for what place means to the children.

As an extension, you could ask the children to think of any questions they have about what makes a place a place. What are they curious about?

Next steps

The activity sets the children on the first steps to defining what a place is and what the features of their local place area. A follow up activity could focus on what changes could make their place better.

Links to planning

This activity helps children understand what the features of a place are.

Curriculum links

Where do I live? What is my world?

Use basic geographical vocabulary

Recognise and identify landmarks and human and physical features

Consider ways land is used