

Fieldwork, enquiries and investigations

Key Stage 1

Continents and oceans

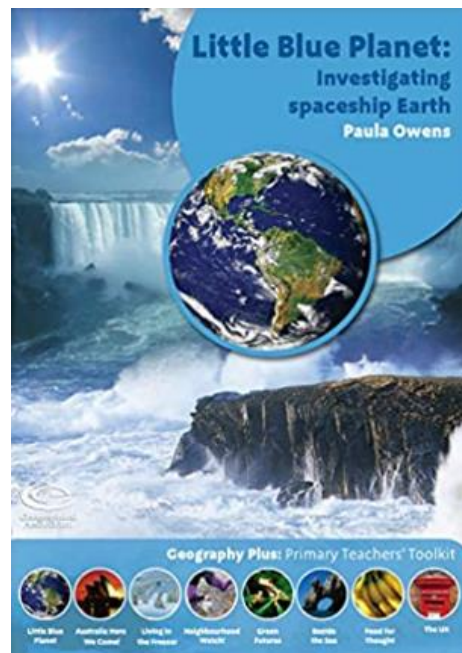
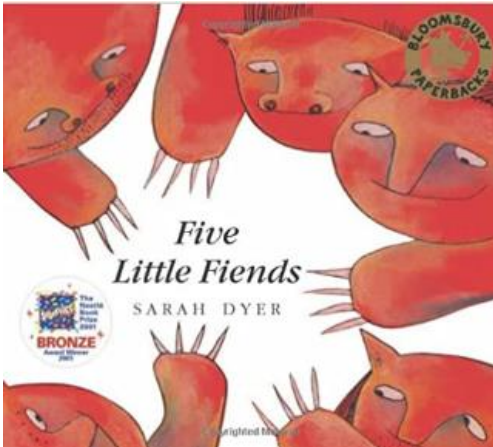
- Many of the images of the Earth from space are remarkably beautiful. The NASA website has a vast range of easily accessible and helpful examples, e.g. see 'Image of the day' (www.nasa.gov/multimedia/imagegallery/iotd.html) and 'Earth as Art' (www.nasa.gov/connect/ebooks/earth_art_detail.html). Either allow pupils to browse these images online or print and laminate some examples and keep them in your book box: some could be labelled. Use them to promote discussion and understanding about the Earth's surface.

Useful websites

Mapping our world: www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/mapping-our-world

NASA website for images of Earth from space: www.nasa.gov

Useful books



The United Kingdom

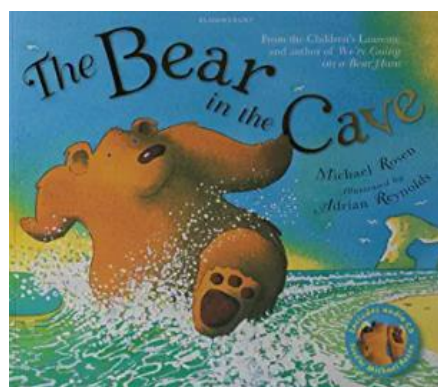
- What countries are the nearest neighbours to the UK? Look at an atlas to make a list. Extend the activity by drawing a distance ring centred on your locality. You will need to select a suitable distance (e.g. 500km) and a pair of compasses to draw the ring on the map. If possible, add photographs or postcards to show some of the places which are found within the distance you have chosen.

Useful websites

Explore the ocean in Google Earth: www.google.com/earth/explore/showcase/ocean.html

BBC Coast Eddystone lighthouse: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZKowr6_F3I

Useful books



Our school

- Devise a questionnaire to ask members of staff about their jobs. Arrange to visit people like the caretaker or school secretary or invite them into the class to be interviewed.
- Use new knowledge about the school and grounds to create outdoor information panels and signs. Label different areas with names thought up by the children.
- Use sensory methods to describe the school grounds: create a listening poem, collect crayon rubbings and drawings of different textures and patterns around the school and map where they are from.

Useful websites

Journey to school: www.journeytoschool.com

25 of the most dangerous and unusual journeys to school in the world: www.boredpanda.com/dangerous-journey-to-school

Google Earth: <https://earth.google.com>

Google Maps: <https://maps.google.co.uk>

Digimap for schools: www.digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk

Where we live

- Make models of your own and other streets using building blocks and bricks. Make a large-scale model out of boxes that pupils can 'jump into'.
- Devise a street trail for pupils to follow looking out for clues and answering questions along the way, or support pupils to make their own.
- Draw a poster highlighting the best points of your local area and persuading people to come and live in the area.
- Create a play set in the classroom to represent a local feature, such as the village shop or a local supermarket or bank.
- Invite someone who works in the local community, such as a local police officer, to your class to talk about their work.

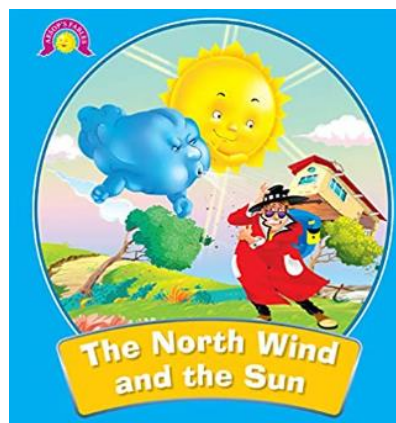
Weather and seasons

- Invite someone whose job relies on the weather forecast such as a builder, farmer or a fisherman to talk to the class about how the weather affects them. Alternatively, you might invite a travel agent to talk about their work and the way that people choose holiday destinations where they can expect certain weather conditions, e.g. snow in Alpine ski resorts and sun for beach holidays.
- Take photographs of the same scene during a term or school year to record seasonal change. For example, you might take a picture each week of a tree in the school and edit to create a short time lapse movie. Doing this over the course of a year can involve all pupils and provide a record created by them of seasonal change. Note the location and direction of the view.

Useful websites

Meteorological Office website: www.metoffice.gov.uk

Useful books



Hot and cold places

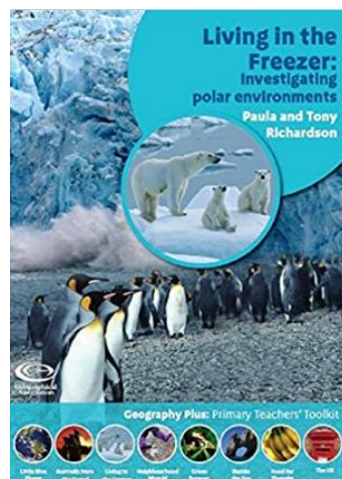
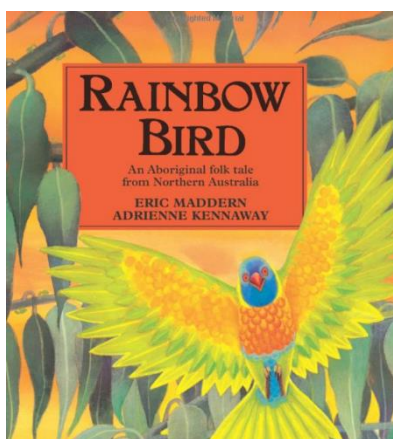
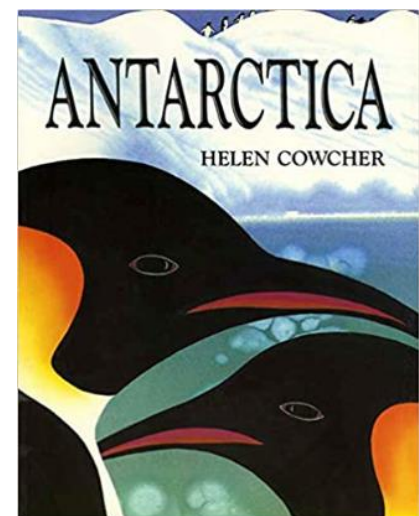
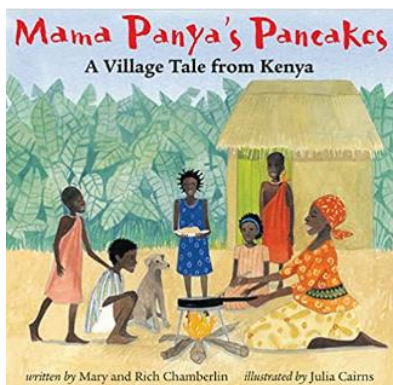
- Set up two simple bottle gardens in glass or plastic jars arranged on their sides. Fill one jar with earth and try to keep it warm and damp to replicate the rainforest climate. Fill the other jar with sand and keep it dry to simulate the desert. Add a number of suitable plants to each jar or make drawings to illustrate them. As an extension, find out about how the domes at the Eden Project in Cornwall recreate distinctive biomes. If possible, visit a local botanical garden where pupils can visit different greenhouse environments.
- Make a survey of plants either in and around your school or that the children have at home. Can they find any cactuses or palm trees which originate in desert environments? Can they find any orchids, ferns or other rainforest plants? See if you can set up a display table showing how we use plants from both the desert and the rainforest to decorate our environment.

Useful websites

Polar bear video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwZH_aTOFGI

How deserts are expanding: www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9RxnuBiFbq

Useful books



Routes and journeys

- Go on a short walk in the school grounds. Provide pupils with a length of string and ask them to gather items along the way that will remind them of the route they took. The items they collect can be fixed to the string by tape, tied on or pushed through the weave if the string you are using is thick. Back in class, ask pupils to make a diagram (simple linear map) showing the sequence in which they found the items they collected. Use this 'journey string' to help them recount the route.
- Identify a walk around the local area from the school and assess it in terms of safety and hazards. For example, you might identify busy roads, narrow pavements and badly lit areas that could be difficult at night-time. Use this information to create a hazard map with advice about keeping safe in the local area. Mark key features on the map and name them.

Useful websites

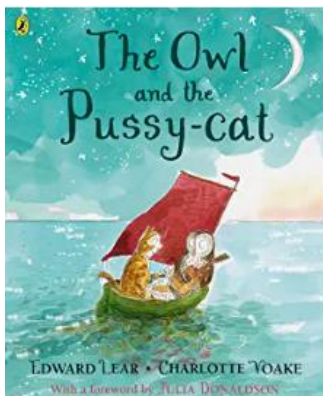
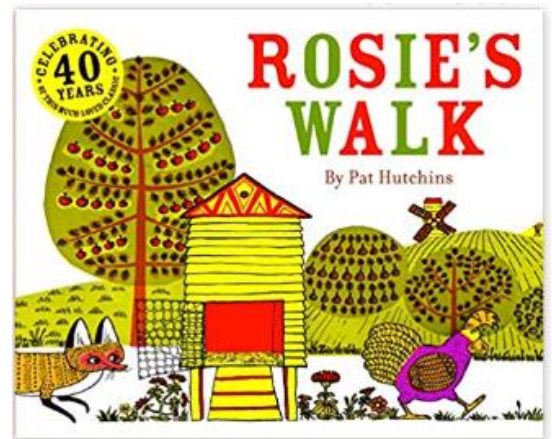
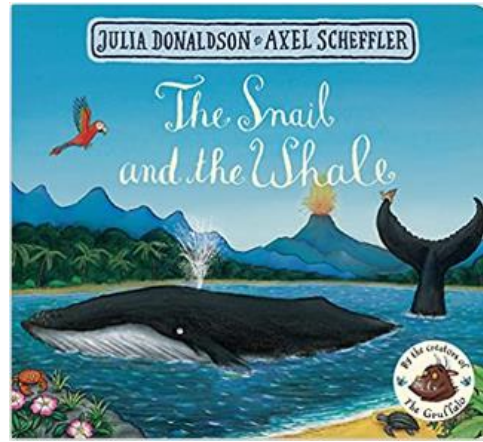
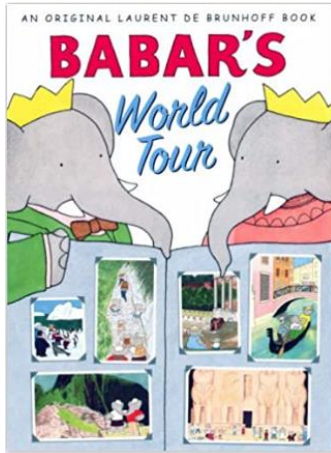
Garden bird migration: www.garden-birds.co.uk/information/migration.htm

<http://voice.gardenbird.co.uk/attract-birds/migration/>

RSPB migration route map links to games:

www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/families/children/play/migrationmap.aspx

Useful books



Villages, Towns and Cities

- Make some flash cards with the names of different villages, towns and cities that the pupils have learnt about in this area of study. Ask pupils questions about each place. Is it a town, village or city? Is it in this country? Is it famous in any way?
- Make a class list of all the things pupils know or associate with London. As well buildings and well known sights, think about famous people who are either alive today or who lived in London in the past. Divide the class into small groups and create a collage of their images.

Useful websites

Songs about cities: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_songs_about_cities

YouTube: Mirror, Aesop Fable, The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse (see books)

Useful books

Browne A (1990) Voices in the Park

