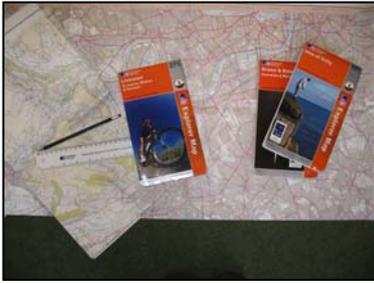


MAPPING FESTIVALS

Teacher Notes

Introduction



The teaching of map work can be challenging for both teacher and students. Textbooks are often used to teach the subject, and may give instructions as a series of steps followed by question and answer-based activities. It can be hard to engage students with this type of approach, and can be difficult for some students to visualise and understand the different skills.

A much more integrated, engaging and challenging approach to the teaching of map skills is taken in this module. It uses music festivals as a theme through which key map skills can be taught and practiced.

The skills introduced through the module are:

- Using maps at a variety of scales to locate and describe places
- Giving and understanding grid references
- Understanding symbols and using keys
- Giving and following compass directions
- Measuring distances
- Giving a route description for a journey
- Understanding how height and relief are shown on a map

The student's booklet is a good starting point, providing an overview of the main aspects of map work and the skills required to interpret maps, alongside definitions of key terms. Another good place to start is the interactive activities provided within the module, which give students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with grid references, distance, contours and symbols in a fun and engaging way.

Approaching the module

Students are often a bit daunted by maps. It is hard both to gain their interest and also to get across the idea that maps are 2-D representations of what we see in real life and that they *are* useful to us in a variety of situations.

Ensure that the students have access to maps. The free OS maps-for-schools initiative run by the OS allows each year 7 pupil to receive a free 1:25,000 scale map of their local area, along with a 'map reading made easy peasy' booklet and stickers to personalise their maps. Teachers are provided with free maps on a ratio of 1:25 pupils and a teaching aid entitled 'Teaching with OS free maps'. Further information about the scheme can be found in the links section at the end of this document.

Additional ideas for teaching map skills can be found in activities on the Fieldwork pages of the Geography Teaching Today website. Again, links are provided at the end of this document.

As well as OS maps, this module uses Google Earth, the internet, and the Environment Agency Flood-map tool to enable students to become familiar with a range of different types of maps at a variety of scales.

Further information and guidance about the approach and structure of the module can be found in the accompanying online CPD presentation.

Suggestions for starting the topic

- Engaging the students from the start is very important if you are to maintain their interest throughout the module. The module deliberately places an emphasis on the music industry and music festivals as a theme through which map skills are taught in order to stimulate the interest of students. Start by presenting them with some images of current bands or artists, or ask them to bring in some pictures of their own. Alternatively, play some music or even hold your own mini festival as an exciting way to introduce the main theme.
- To introduce the map skills element of the module, consider a discussion to gauge student levels of knowledge and understanding about maps - ask them what a map is and what information it shows, how it shows this information, and how we might interpret it.
- Another interesting question to ask might be about students' experiences of using maps, their level of comfort in using them and also their concerns or apprehensions about using them. This may help to guide you in your teaching of this topic.
- Set an initial ICT exercise in which students familiarise themselves with the Glastonbury website (a link is provided at the end of this document). You could set this as a homework activity. Each student could be given something simple to find out, or a question to answer, which they could then share with the rest of the class during the next lesson.
- You can then focus on the resources provided in the Mapping Festivals unit. The downloadable starter activity for lesson 1 is a simple exercise using maps at a variety of scales to describe the location of the Glastonbury festival. Students gradually build up a descriptive paragraph as they work through the presentation.

Suggestions for teaching the map skills

After deciding how many lessons you will be able to devote to the topic look at the module plan and lesson materials provided as downloadable materials with this module. It is also important to read the fact sheet provided which gives extensive background information for the teaching of each lesson.

Download the accompanying student booklet on map-work, and photocopy it as a booklet and distribute it to your students. It gives them the main terms and basic information on the skills which they will be covering in the module. Alternatively, ask them to view the document online for homework or during a lesson in which they may access computers.

Lessons 1 and 2 both focus on Glastonbury and use OS maps at a variety of scales to examine the site and situation of the festival as well as the local area. It is important that students understand the terms site and situation, and that they also possess the skills to interpret basic information presented on OS maps. Definitions are provided in the student booklet.

Some time for theory might be required over and above the 6 lesson provided in the module to ensure that students gain confidence with the skills they need to carry out the tasks in the lessons. Interactive resources have been developed to help with the teaching of some of the key map skills: these can be downloaded and can be used at the start of lessons or as an introduction to carrying out the main activity. They are designed such that they can be used either on an Interactive White Board or by students individually on PCs.

Lesson 3 requires knowledge of the basic functions of Google Earth. A link to the website is given at the end of this document, along with links to two useful sections of the Geography Teaching Today website: an interactive online tutorial for Google Earth, and a set of user guides covering key functions. Depending on the level of ability of the students and how much time you have, this lesson could be spread over two lessons, allowing more time for the main activity and also to perhaps develop the extension task suggested in the following section.

The Environment Agency produces online flood risk maps for all parts of the UK when a postcode is typed into the facility on the website. Instructions on how to use the facility are provided in the fact sheet which accompanies the module. The extent of flooding is shown on each map, and this can then be compared with an OS map of each UK festival site. As an engaging way of demonstrating the facility, students could enter their own postcode to examine flood risk in the area they live.



Suggestions for extension and G&T activities

- Students imagine that they are going to teach next year's Year 7 students about map skills and use the knowledge, understanding and skills they've acquired during the module to develop their own game or activity to teach a particular map skill. Small groups of students could each be given a different skill to focus on.
- A 'guess the festival' activity could be introduced in which small groups of students each find out about a different festival and its site and situation. They write a description of it, pass it to another group who then have to work out where the festival is located and give its name plus some additional facts about it.
- The 'design a festival' lesson could be developed into a larger project, involving several lessons' worth of work and culminating in presentations to the class - perhaps using Google Earth.
- The environmental sustainability of different festivals around the globe could be examined through independent research or as a homework task.
- Developing the concept of music and sustainable development, students could research the 'Live Earth' concerts held in July 2007 - what was their purpose? Have they made a difference? It would be interesting to examine the arguments both for and against the

concerts. Some argued that they were a waste of time and did more harm than good to the environment due the impact of the concerts themselves!

- There are fieldwork opportunities using the free OS maps. Two modules can be downloaded on the 'fieldwork and local learning' section of the website. Both can be carried out in the area surrounding the school, and are based around using simple map skills to complete a simple and stimulating activity with the free OS maps.

Conclusion

Teaching map skills can be fun and enormously rewarding when students are engaged and are developing their understanding. Enthusing students at the start of the unit, and maintaining their interest through each of the lessons is vital to this. Map skills are an integral part of geography teaching throughout the Key Stages, and a firm grounding at an early stage will stand them in good stead for later on.

Internet links

OS homepage:

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

The OS free maps for schools service:

<http://freemaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/freemapsfor11yearolds/>

The OS 'Get-a-map' service:

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/getamap/

The OS *Map reading made easy-peasy* leaflet:

www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/education/pdf/mapreadingmadeeasypeasy2.pdf

The GCSE bitesize pages include useful information on map skills:

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/qcsebitesize/geography/geogskills/geogskillsmapsrev1.shtml

Google Earth website:

<http://earth.google.com/>

Glastonbury Festival website:

www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk/

Information on using the Environment Agency flood map service:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/37837.aspx

Geography Teaching Today OS fieldwork modules:

www.geographyteachingtoday.org.uk/fieldwork/info/local-learning/fieldwork-using-free-os-maps-for-schools/

Some further links to the individual global festival sites can be found on the module fact-sheet which is downloadable on the website.