



Who do we think we are?

Lesson 1: Who am I?

Key Ideas:

- a) To explore the concept of identity
- b) To make connections between identity and personal geographies
- c) To investigate the relationship between people and their local environment.

Starter activity:

Students watch a short video clip which shows young people from the UK and the Middle East discussing their identities, and the similarities and differences between them. While watching the clip, students should be encouraged to list the elements that make up someone's identity. These include characteristics like gender, ethnicity, religion, birthplace, education, wealth, culture, personality, clothes and music. A brief class discussion can follow, and students' ideas of what makes up someone's identity can be shared on the board.

Main activity:

The main activity is designed to encourage students to think about their own identity and about how the world around them contributes to their identity. **For this activity, teachers will need to source a map extract of the local area** and copy it into the centre of a larger piece of paper. Maps can be sourced on Internet sites such as Streetmap (link provided on the module plan).

- Students are given an A3 piece of paper with a map of the local area surrounding the school located in the middle of the sheet.
- Around the map, using arrows to indicate specific places, students draw and label particular places that they know, and annotate to explain why those places are important to their identity. Places that they might identify include their school, youth club, grandparents' house, their house etc.
- Students can widen the scale and consider places away from the area shown on the map (to locate, for example, their football club or parent's country of origin), they can add this information in a different colour and add a key to indicate scale.
- At the end of the activity, students should be given the opportunity to walk around the classroom and view their peers' maps.

An alternative approach to this task would be to annotate the local area by inserting and annotating place marks on Google Earth. A link to Google Earth and some instructions on how to insert placemarks is provided on the module plan.

Plenary:

The lesson concludes with students considering the question, 'Who am I?' Using the work that they have completed during the lesson, students write words to answer the question on pieces of A4 paper. The papers should be stuck on the wall for other students to read. Finally, the class as a whole can identify similarities between themselves and use this to answer the final question of the lesson, 'Who do we think we are?'