Outdoor lesson

primary

Look out!

Create a representation of your school's surroundings

Great for...

- **Geography** knowledge and understanding of places
- **Design and technology** working with materials
- **Art and design**

Activity

1 The aim of this activity is to create a visual representation of the surroundings of your school site within your own grounds. Start by creating a model or plan of your school building(s) in an open area of your school site. Layout the boundary line and surrounding roads etc. You could use ropes or chalk to do this.

2 Walking along the boundary of the grounds get the children to look outwards and take photographs or draw a sketch of what they can see.

3 The children then need to recreate what they have seen at the correct point along the boundary on the model or plan. This will not be a plan view, rather an image of what they saw. This could be represented by chalking, using natural materials or other items such as PE equipment.

4 If possible take an image from above of what has been created.

5 Display the original sketches or photographs inside along with images of your outside representations.

What you need

- **Clipboards, paper and pencils**
- **Cameras** (optional).
- **Items for making the image in the grounds** for example, chalks, natural materials, PE equipment, boxes etc.

Preparation

- Talk about your local area, what you can see from the boundary of the grounds and how you might record these views.
- Look at different ways this has been done by others – for example, community tapestries (see Common Ground's work on Parish Maps for inspiration at **www.commonground.org.uk**).
- Find a space outdoors where you can recreate your visual representation. A space that can be viewed and/or photographed from above would be best.

Less challenging

- Consider which children, depending on their creative and artistic skills, should 'record' which views out of the grounds.
- Provide the children with appropriate resources to record their findings.

More challenging

- Annotate the different visual representations with written descriptions using geographical language to describe different features.

Your notes

Use this space to evaluate the activity

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