

Peninsula

The Geographysouthwest Primary Newsletter

Issue 3 - November 2022



“Just as none of us is outside or beyond geography, none of us is completely free from the struggle over geography. That struggle is about ideas, about forms, about images and imaginings”

Edward Said

Welcome to the third of our monthly newsletters, which is aimed at providing ideas and inspiration for primary geography colleagues whether in the south-west or otherwise.

Compiled by Alan Parkinson and Emma Espley.

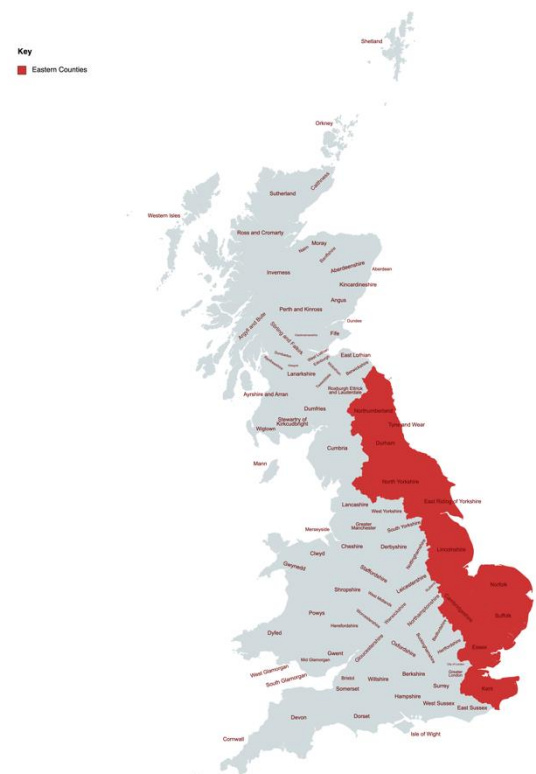
#1122.01: MapChart - create your own maps

Primary classrooms need maps in them, and this site offers the chance to create your own maps using a range of templates and options. The site is free to use, and easy to navigate. Start by choosing a geographical area (this could be the whole world, a continent or country). There are also some other options for the UK, such as a map of counties, plus fantasy mapping like Game of Thrones.

Colour and labelling can be added to maps to customise them for your classroom. A legend or key will be created, which can also be labelled. There are options for changing the appearance of maps. Once finished, the maps can be downloaded as PNG files (high quality images) and used freely under a Creative Commons license. The site is here:

<https://www.mapchart.net/index.html>

Here is a map, which I made in just a few minutes, showing the counties down the eastern side of England.



Created with mapchart.net

Polar bears are also popular with young people, and closely associated with change in the polar regions.

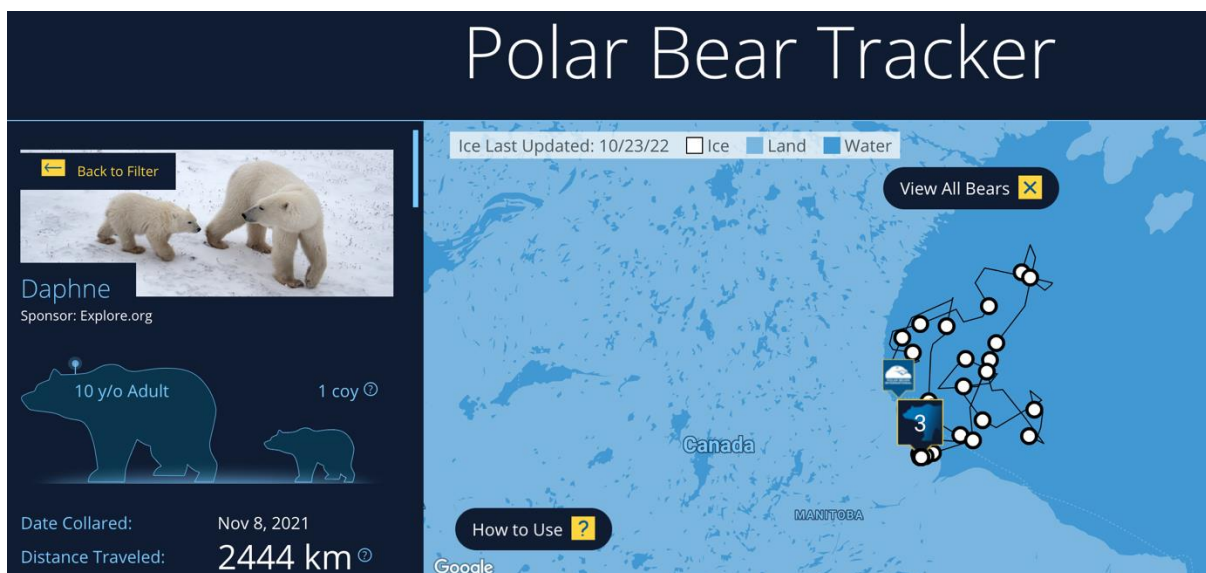
The polar bears of Hudson Bay live in a seasonal ice area, where the ice melts completely in summer and freezes again in the autumn. The bears can be followed using the tracker maps on the website as they hunt seals out on the sea ice when the bay is frozen or are forced ashore during the ice-free seasons, which are becoming increasingly lengthy.

The site is here:

<https://polarbearsinternational.org/polar-bear-tracker>

Click the 'Education Center' tab to see other useful resources, including web cams and teaching materials.

Students can choose from a total of 13 bears, whose names include Floe, Mara and Daphne. Here are Daphne's recent movements since being collared with a GPS tracker in November 2021 - coming up for one year ago. She is a 10-year-old bear with a single cub, who has travelled over 2400 km within that time.



#1122.04: Countryside Classroom

The Countryside Classroom is a collection of resources on the broad theme of the countryside, food and farming. These are produced by a number of related organisations, and this website collates them together:

<https://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/>

Free registration is needed to access some of the resources.

KEY STAGE / AGE	KS3	CURRICULUM SUBJECT	Mathematics Music	Sustainable Development
EVFS	11-12			
3-4	12-13	Art and Design	Personal, Social and Health Education	TYPE
4-5	13-14	Business Studies	Physical Education	Case Study
KS1	KS4	Citizenship	Religious Education	Guidance
5-6	14-15	Computing	Science	Scheme / Programme
6-7	15-16	Cooking and Nutrition	THEME	Teacher Resource
KS2	KS5	Design and Technology	Farming	Educational Product
7-8	16+	Drama	Food	FORMAT
8-9		English	Natural Environment	Download
9-10		Geography	Grounds and Green Spaces	Mail-order
10-11		History	Rural Life	Multimedia
		Languages		Website

The plentiful resources can be searched using a range of options and filters and are provided for a range of subjects.

A few example resources which may be of interest:

Waste reduction bingo from the Environment Agency:

<https://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/resources/1701>

Farm posters (A1 size) and stickers ahead of farm visits - physical and digital formats:

<https://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/resources/786>

Plastic pollution snakes and ladders:

<https://www.countrysideclassroom.org.uk/resources/1700>

#112205: Plastic-Free Schools

Register on the TeachWire website to access a set of resources produced by the charity Surfers against Sewage. Schools that register themselves are sent a number of cards with a range of objectives to try to meet.

<https://www.teachwire.net/products/plastic-free-schools/>

The site suggests that this resource *'teaches pupils that they should never underestimate the power of their voice. It helps the kids and teachers to outsmart the polluters and replace their pointless plastics with something better. Plastic Free Schools empowers pupils to make real changes in their school and community. They'll investigate single-use plastics, find alternatives for the school to use and challenge polluters to change their ways.'*

We are also moving towards COP27 in Egypt where the world's leaders will be discussing Climate Change. One of the main sponsors for this event is Coca Cola - the world's largest producer of plastic bottles. Older Primary students might be asked for their thoughts on whether that is a suitable agreement to have entered into on the part of the organisers. Some suitable COP27 resources are available here:

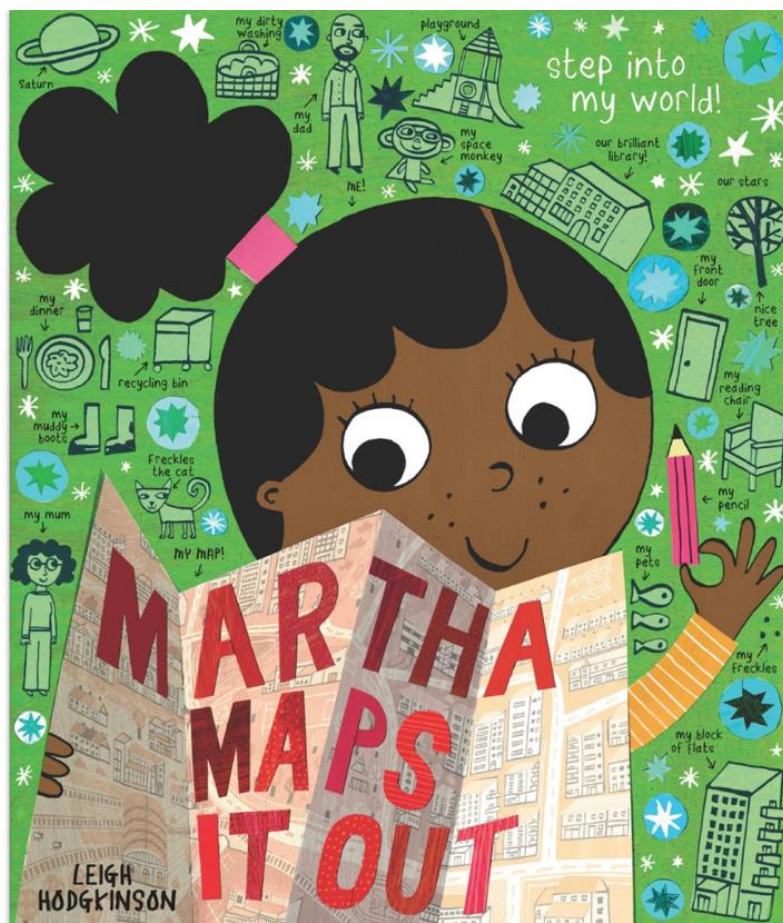
<https://together-for-our-planet.ukcop26.org/schools-pack-resources/>

Twitter Suggestions

Account	Who they are	What they tweet about
@ManorCharney	Charney Manor Primary Conference	The Charney Conference is held every year in late February. This account will share primary news around that time, but is active at other points of the year sharing primary ideas.
@Countryclassrm	Countryside Classroom	Connecting schools with farms, food and the natural environment. Resources featured earlier in the newsletter.
@Leaf_Education	Leaf Education	A similar site to the Countryside Classroom, offering resources on the natural world. https://leaf.eco/education/leaf-education

Reading List

This month's recommendation is 'Martha Maps it Out' by Leigh Hodgkinson. It includes some lovely ideas for exploring the world at different scales - zooming in to see how the local area is mapped in different ways. A lovely picture book for the geography classroom.



This Stanfords video features the author talking about the process of writing the book:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HL3SrEbpYXs>

In this video, the author guides students through how they can make their own map of a town of their dreams:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1uewgx13nY>

What's On

Within each issue of Primary Newsbites, we will share details of at least one event or film/TV programme that we think you may find interesting.

This time, we recommend taking a look at the episodes from the recent series of **Autumnwatch**, which has just concluded on the BBC.

The iPlayer page has links to short clips from the programmes, along with full episodes and a related podcast that includes discussions on various aspects of autumn: a time of year which lends itself to colourful and spectacular classroom displays.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0079t1p>

The series was filmed at Wild Ken Hill on the NW Norfolk coast. Their website <https://wildkenhill.co.uk/> contains a number of films and interesting resources on their approach to rewilding and what is called 'regenerative farming', which may bring a new approach to your teaching of food and farming.

Wicked Weather Watch, a charity based in Box in Wiltshire, have just advertised the below opportunity for Key Stage 2 teachers and pupils ... open to all schools within the UK and Europe! Contact Rhianna Davies-Smith: schools@wickedweatherwatch.org.uk if you are interested asap as there are only a few places still available.

Arctic virtual multi-schools event

What is so *cool* about the Arctic?

Wicked Weather Watch is collaborating with Emma Espley from [Create2Inspire](#) to bring schools a whole day, highly engaging, interactive, virtual multi-schools experience that will take pupils and their teachers on a journey to the Arctic. **Schools throughout the UK and Europe are welcome onboard!**






Pupils will learn about the Arctic, the tundra biome (climate, soils, flora, and fauna), the people that live there, the impacts of climate change upon this fragile region and its inhabitants, and how we can reduce our own carbon footprint here in the UK to ensure the sustainability of our planet.

The day will even provide an opportunity to hear from a **real-life explorer**, Nanou Blair Gould, who travelled to the High Arctic Archipelago by tall ship. Among many extraordinary things, she witnessed the effects of global warming first-hand. Nanou was so invigorated by the adventure – the people, life outdoors, the sense of purpose – that she joined the ship again, working among the small crew for almost four months.

Targeting upper KS2, notably Years 5 and 6, and supporting a transition to KS3, this event will cover many different areas of the curriculum and key skills, especially geography, numeracy/maths, literacy/English, and critical thinking. We will develop key aspects of substantive knowledge, such as place and locational knowledge, physical and human geography and geographical skills, as well as nurturing disciplinary knowledge, e.g. working and thinking like a geographer, in the process.

The cost for each school is £150 (you can involve as many upper Key Stage 2 teachers and pupils as is feasible your end). The next two dates for these sessions are 7th December 2022 and 25th January 2023.

If you wish to reserve a place for your school, then please contact Rhianna at schools@wickedweatherwatch.org.uk by 30th November 2022. Places are limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.



If you have an idea that you'd like to contribute, then please get in touch and tell us more via Twitter @GeoBlogs or email: aparkinson@gmail.com.

The deadline for Issue 4 is the 27th of November 2022.

We'd love to showcase your work in future issues as well, so please feel free to share if you have been inspired by something you read in these pages. Did you produce some poetry on National Poetry Day, for example?