

Outside my window

Key questions

- What can I observe?
- How is a place perceived?
- How can I represent a place using a field sketch?

Learning objectives

- To make observations.
- To create an annotated field sketch.
- To consider the viewpoint of others.

Key vocab

- field sketch
- viewpoint
- environmental
- annotate
- human
- physical

Working together

On one level everyone lives in the same 'place' but do the field sketches demonstrate this?

Ask the children to share their field sketches and discuss the similarities and differences between them.

Why not start by...

Asking pupils to look out of each of the windows in their house and decide which view they like most or least. They can use the criteria in this simple environmental survey to help them.

Environmental Survey				
Dirty	☹	☹	☹	Clean
Ugly	☹	☹	☹	Beautiful
Noisy	☹	☹	☹	Quiet
Dull	☹	☹	☹	Colourful
Dark	☹	☹	☹	Light
Can Play	☹	☹	☹	Cannot play

They could rank them or ask another family member what their favourite view is and why. Does standing closer to the window or crouching and looking from a different height make a difference?

Build on this by...

Asking the pupils to choose one window and create a field sketch of the view outside. This should be a 'rough' drawing annotated with labels that describe the human and physical features that they see: vegetation, clouds, slopes, water, buildings, walls, paving, etc.



X-Curricular: Maths

What shapes can the pupils see from their windows? Are these more defined within human or physical features?

Can they pick out different sorts of straight lines: parallel, vertical, horizontal, perpendicular, intersecting, angles (right, obtuse, acute, reflex), symmetrical?

What if...

You could have any view out of your window? What would you like to see each morning as you draw your curtains?

What about out of the other windows of your house? What smells and sounds might drift in from outside?

Extension opportunity

Ask the pupils to revisit the window which they thought had the 'worst' view. How could this view be enhanced?

Design a questionnaire to gather information about the local area. What do people like? What improvements and changes have they seen there?



Does a garden need to have flowers to be a garden?