



Geography with your Child A Helpful Guide for CtS Parents



At CTS, we believe that every child is a geographer. Put simply, geography is about understanding the world. Geographers do this by comparing locations; talking about places; asking and answering questions; investigating and researching. As parents, you can support your child to observe, notice and discuss first your local environment and then - as they get older - the wider world. We have collated some ideas to support you in this document. We hope they help you and your child become excited and curious together about the world around you.

Geographers notice things all around them

Every journey - even the walk to school - is a Geography opportunity. Talk to your child and help them to make observations. You could use questions such as:



- What can you see?
- What can you hear?
- What can you smell?
- Why do you think that building or road is there?
- What shapes can you see?
- What materials can you see? Why were they chosen?
- What transport is here?
- Where are people going?
- What are people doing?
- What grows here?
- What animals might be here?
- Are all the houses the same, what differences do you see?
- What shops are here? Why those shops?
- What shops would you like to see?
- Do you think this place was always like this?



Visit the same places over the year

Visit the same place in different seasons and predict and discuss the seasonal changes.

- Why are there ducklings now but no conkers?
- Will that tree always look the same?
- Which plants are the bees interested in?
- Why or when might that change?

You could "adopt" a tree and take notice of how it changes over a year.



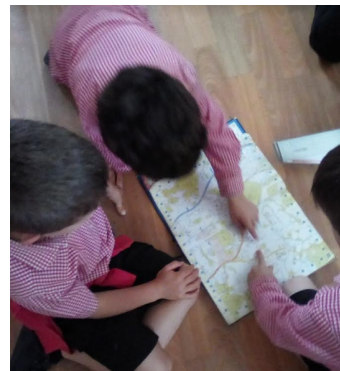


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Maps and journeys

With the advent of mobile phones and SatNavs, children may see the use of maps less often. They will love finding their home and school on a map. Help your child to spot and use maps around them, plan journeys and discuss locations. Older children may enjoy using the eight-compass points or grid references to navigate family walks.



Link Geography to story time

Read with your children as often as you can. It's a great way to end the day and to spend quality family time, even when your children can read for themselves. Books, travel brochures, magazines and comics are all great geography reading choices.

As you read, you could:

- find any new locations on a map or globe
- build up a family map of stories you have read
- notice how different locations impact:
 - The weather
 - The housing and transportation
 - What people do for work and fun
 - What people (or animals) eat
 - Any challenges



Observe and get creative with nature

Encourage your child to examine, collect and sort items from nature. They could group them by colour, or size, or texture. They could use found objects to make art or play games.

Monitor the weather each day and discuss how it changes what they see.