



North York Moors National Park

Map skills (Key stage 2)

This practical session aims to develop children's geographical skills. Beginning indoors children use maps and aerial photographs to identify and compare features on the map and the photograph, use symbols, keys and grid references. Outdoors, in the grounds of the visitor centre, children learn how to use the map to navigate from point to point and then work in small teams to do the 'otter orienteering trail'.



Main curriculum links

Geography

- geographical skills

Physical education

- outdoor activity
- orienteering skills.

Age Range: Years 3 to 6 (Age 7 to 11)

Duration: 1 ½ hours

Location: Danby Lodge National Park Centre

Key learning objectives

Children should learn...

Geography

- about different types of maps and their purposes
- to use maps of different scales
- to use an aerial photograph

Physical education

- basic orienteering skills

Other skills involved

- looking carefully / observation skills
- working independently
- team working

Learning outcomes

All children will be able to:

- name at least two different types of maps
- use a key to find out what map symbols represent
- recognise a range of map symbols
- follow a route on a map

Most children will be able to:

- name and describe the purpose of several different types of maps
- match features on a map to the same features on an aerial photograph
- use 4 or 6 figure grid references to identify points on a map
- navigate to points using a map

Some children will be able to:

- describe what a location will look like by interpreting symbols on a map
- match symbols on a map to landscape features

Assessment for learning

We assess learning using a variety of techniques appropriate to the activity such as: questioning, questioning games, observing how well children are performing tasks, checking results, quizzes and feedback forms.

Ideas for extending learning before and after this activity

Before: Introduce children to an OS map key and learn to recognise some symbols.

Practise working out grid references (4 or 6 figure according to the age and ability of your children)

After: Ask children to draw a map of a familiar area such as a children's play ground, showing the locations of different pieces of play equipment and devise a key.

The Ordnance Survey provides educational resources for schools including access to OS maps and downloadable activities and worksheets to develop children's geographical skills at www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk*

*This is an external website for which the National Park Authority has no responsibility.

Further information

To find out more, make a booking or view other activities please visit our [Outdoor learning and school visits page](#).

You can contact the Outdoor Learning team on 01439 772751 or email outdoorlearning@northyorkmoors.org.uk