

STAGE 1 GEOGRAPHY

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES TO LEARN ABOUT FEATURES OF PLACES

Learning intention: Activities are designed to engage students with the outdoors, investigating the features of places and the connections people have with places.

Activity 1: Sound maps

Go outside in your backyard or school playground with a blank piece of paper and a pencil. Sit by yourself, close your eyes and listen to your surroundings. Draw a **sound map** of all the things you can hear:

- Draw a small person in the middle of your page – this is you.
- Draw pictures of all the things you can hear in the direction they are from you. Draw them close to you if they are nearby sounds – draw them further away if they are distant sounds. If they are loud sounds draw them larger, if they are quiet sounds draw them smaller.
- Turn your page over. Make a list of all the sounds you could hear that were **man-made**. Now make a list of all the things you could hear that were **natural**. Which list was longer?

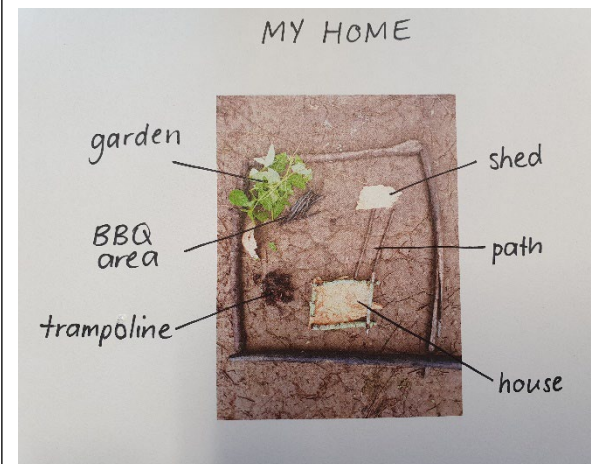
Extension activity: Draw another sound map at a different time of the day. What were the similarities and differences between your two sound maps?

Activity 2: Nature maps

Go outside in your backyard or school playground. Collect a range of natural materials, including four sticks. Use the sticks to create a square on the ground – this is now the border of your nature map!

Choose a place you are familiar with – it might be your home, your school, your local park etc. Use the materials you have collected to create a map of the main features of this place.

Extension activity: Take a photo of your nature map. If you're able to print it off, label the features of your place and write a short description of why this place is important to you.



Activity 3: Daily weather patterns

Go outside in your backyard or school playground in the morning. Place a stick upright in the ground in a sunny place. Take note of the position and length of the shadow formed by the stick. Return at different times throughout the day and take note of the changes in the stick's shadow as the sun moves across the sky.

Extension activity: Record the changes in the shadow using photos and/or drawings and note the time of day for each observation. Use a ruler to measure the length of the shadow and record this next to your photos/drawings. Write a short explanation of how the shadow changed throughout the day.

