

School grounds focus:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How can we get there?
- Making the changes
- Using your grounds

Curriculum focus:

- Geography
- ICT
- English

Purpose of this activity:

- To use ICT to find information
- To use field techniques outside the classroom
- To begin to understand scale and basic grid references

Equipment and materials:

- Access to google maps for satellite images of the school grounds or maps of the school grounds.
- Six 'geocaches' (small containers in which the children have stored treasure items such as small world toys), one per group of six children.
- One or two hand-held GPS units (an alternative might be mobile phones with a GPS facility or a satellite navigation system).

Preparation:

- Introduce younger pupils to this activity using the mini man treasure hunt (see over page).
- Using google earth, get the children to find their school and print off an aerial-view satellite image.
- Using this image walk around the school grounds with the children getting them to identify key landmarks. Mark any other important landmarks/features on their satellite image that may not already be there.
- Get each group to hide their geocaches around the school site and mark on their satellite image where they have left them.

What to do:

The idea is for the different groups to try and find each others' hidden geocaches, having exchanged maps/satellite images.

Extensions:

- Rather than a printed satellite image, get pupils to find the longitude and latitude references (right-click on their google map). These can then be programmed into a GPS unit to find the geocaches.
- Develop a treasure trail: in each geocache put a clue (or a longitude/latitude reference) that takes the treasure hunter on to the next geocache. These could be in the form of picture clues (photos or illustration), riddles or poems.
- Develop treasure trails for family fundraising events and extended school activities, including open evenings.
- Having practised in the school grounds, take these activities to the local park.

Further resources:

- National geocaching website www.geocaching.com
- Ordnance survey maps www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/education

Mini man treasure hunt

This activity is designed to help younger children understand the concept of treasure hunts. Make a series of mini men out of modelling clay, each one slightly taller than the previous one. Hide the mini-men in different but easy to find locations around the school grounds and mark these on an aerial-view satellite image of the school grounds. Over the course of a day or a week, get the children in groups to find the mini men, starting with the smallest. Each time a mini man is found, the group needs to measure how big he is. They then feed him some cake to help him grow. When they find 'giant' man, everyone sits down and eats some cake to celebrate!



On Monday

Mini man was hiding

and he was cm tall.

I fed him cake and he began to grow.

On Tuesday

Mini man was hiding

and he was cm tall.

I fed him cake and he began to grow.

On Wednesday

Mini man was hiding

and he was cm tall.

I fed him cake and he began to grow.

On Thursday

Mini man was hiding

and he was cm tall.

I fed him cake and he began to grow.

On Friday

I found a giant man hiding

and he was cm tall.

We all ate cake to celebrate!