

Year 4 Geography Unit - Where we are

Context

In this Geography unit we will study where we live on different scales: our nation of the United Kingdom and England, our region of the West Midlands, our city of Birmingham and lastly our school locality in Northfield.

We will learn about how changes have occurred in these places as well as undertake fieldwork to investigate how land-use links to the amount and types of traffic in an area.

Key vocabulary and places

United Kingdom - Our country is a **union** which means it is a group of smaller countries of **nations** together as one country, with the **King** as Head of State over them all.

England - the largest nation by area and population with London as capital city for it as well as for the whole of the UK.

Scotland - a nation in the north with Edinburgh as capital city.

Wales - a nation in the west with Cardiff as its capital city.

Northern Ireland - this is a province or region (not a nation) located on the island of Ireland. Belfast is its capital city.

Independence - Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all have people that believe they should be separate from the United Kingdom.

Regions - all areas of the UK are split into regions to help organise services for those that live there. Our region is the **West Midlands** which contains Birmingham and all the built up areas around it such as Dudley, Solihull and Coventry.

Birmingham - our city is known as the Second City as it is the second most important after London, though Manchester wants this title instead!

Fieldwork - this is studying outside of the classroom in the place you are learning about.

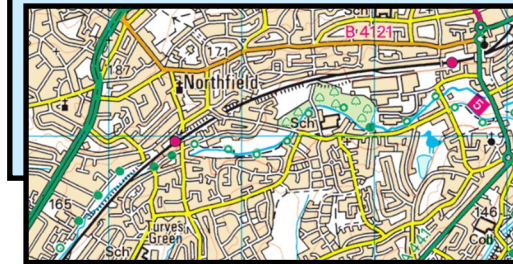
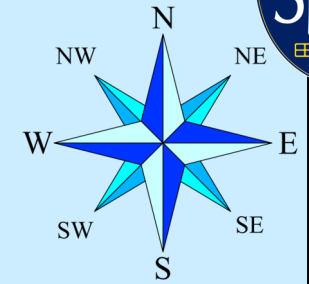
Land-use - what land is used for e.g. **residential** (houses), **community** (schools, halls...), **religious**, **industrial** (factories), **recreation** (parks or clubs) and **commercial** (shops).

Traffic - any vehicles moving on the public roads e.g. cars, bikes, lorries or even diggers!



Geography Skills

- Use a compass with 4 or 8 points confidently.
- Ask and answer questions about places using maps, satellite images, and photographs.
- Use Ordnance Survey (OS) maps, city maps, atlases and internet maps at different scales.
- FIELDWORK - recognise real-life places from a map and name the land use for them on it.
- FIELDWORK - make a land-use map based on fieldwork and understand why a key is important.
- FIELDWORK - recognise and use the symbols from an OS map
- FIELDWORK - record traffic data using a tally chart.
- FIELDWORK - analyse data and make conclusions about whether land-use and traffic are linked.



Something to reflect on...

If you lived in another part of the UK, would you want independence or not? Why?

Why is it important that Birmingham has changed over the last 100 years?

Would you rather live in a busy part of Northfield or a quieter part? Why?