

Puzzlewood

A Magical Woodland in the Forest of Dean

Geography Fieldwork KS1 and 2

Puzzlewood is a designated ancient woodland. It is a special, important and protected place. The woodland is so old it has developed intricate communities of plants, animals and fungi.

Puzzlewood is a unique environment for carrying out practical geography.

It is ideal for a day of fieldwork skills development within an enclosed environment.

We strongly recommend that you visit the site before your visit, as there are so many varied opportunities for a creative curriculum.



National Curriculum Programs of Study:

KS1

use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to:

key physical features, including: beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather

key human features, including: city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop

use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language to describe the location of features and routes on a map

use aerial photographs and plan perspectives to recognise landmarks and basic human and physical features; devise a simple map; and use and construct basic symbols in a key

use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment.

KS2

describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water

use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied

use the 8 points of a compass, 4 and 6-figure grid references, symbols and key (including the use of Ordnance Survey maps) to build their knowledge of the United Kingdom and the wider world

use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs, and digital technologies.

KS1 Suggested activities

Before your visit:

Practise drawing sketch maps of the immediate area – classroom, school grounds etc.

Use Google Maps to look at the area around Puzzlewood. What geographical features can you see? Make a list.

Use Google Street View. Start in the centre of Coleford (local schools could start from their local town/village). Talk through the journey to Puzzlewood. Discuss what you see and make notes about direction, distances, landmarks and geographical features. Screenshot the list and use on your actual journey to site.

During your visit:

You are requested to stay on the marked paths in order to preserve this important ancient site.

Either individually (or in small groups) give out a journey stick <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sfdp1XE6HHY>
Add found objects to this stick as you walk through the woodland.

Walk slowly through the woodland discussing the features you can see e.g. wide narrow, vegetation, route, landscape, soil.

Stop and sit near a scowle. Close your eyes and use your senses to listen, feel, smell. Open eyes and discuss what's around. Record responses using an iPad for use back in the classroom.

In sketchbooks, quickly map the immediate area including geographical features.

Use a compass to check direction throughout your walk.

Give each child a square of paper. Ask them to fold the corners into the middle, creating four triangles. Using a compass, identify where north is. The children to write the letter 'N' on one of the triangles. Pointing the outside edge of this triangle northwards, children then open their 'N' triangles and in the diamond shape beneath the flap sketch what they can see. They repeat this with west, south and east, labelling them with the appropriate letter, until they have created a simple map using the compass.

Walk around the willow maze. Use directional language to describe the journey e.g. forward, backward, left, right.

Using sketchbooks, design a 'bird's eye view' willow maze of your own.

KS2 Suggested Activities

Before your visit:

Locate Forest of Dean within Gloucestershire and the UK and Puzzlewood within the Forest of Dean

Study OS map of area – notice key features, 4 figure grid references, symbols and keys

Plan route from school to Puzzlewood, using map scale to work out distances

Write a list of questions to be answered/observations to be made.

Decide on the focus for your fieldwork visit and subsequent key geographical question, e.g. 'What human and physical geographical features can be found at Puzzlewood?'

During your visit:

You are requested to stay on the marked paths in order to preserve this important ancient site.

Carry out pre-planned activities to answer your specific key geographical question.

Choose 2 contrasting areas of the Puzzlewood site to draw as sketch maps e.g. a section of woodland and the playground area. Include: a simple key, north arrow, title and frame.

Annotate a base map with features.

Complete tally charts to record different features.

Make sketches of human and physical features.

Walk through the site using compasses to notice and discuss changes in direction.

After your visit:

Present the data collected during your visit

Write a recount of your visit or write a persuasive letter encouraging people to visit Puzzlewood.

Make a journey book. More information can be found here: <https://www.geography.org.uk/Fieldwork-ideas-and-resources>

Create a land-use map of the Puzzlewood site.

Write a tourist guide (including map).

