

Start Here!

The Explorer's Field Guide: Year 1 Geography

Partnering with you to discover the United Kingdom and build young global citizens.

Autumn Term Curriculum & Home Learning Guide



Putting on Our Geography Glasses

Our analytical lens

In Year 1, we don't just memorize maps; we learn to think like geographers. We encourage children to view their world through an analytical lens.

Observing

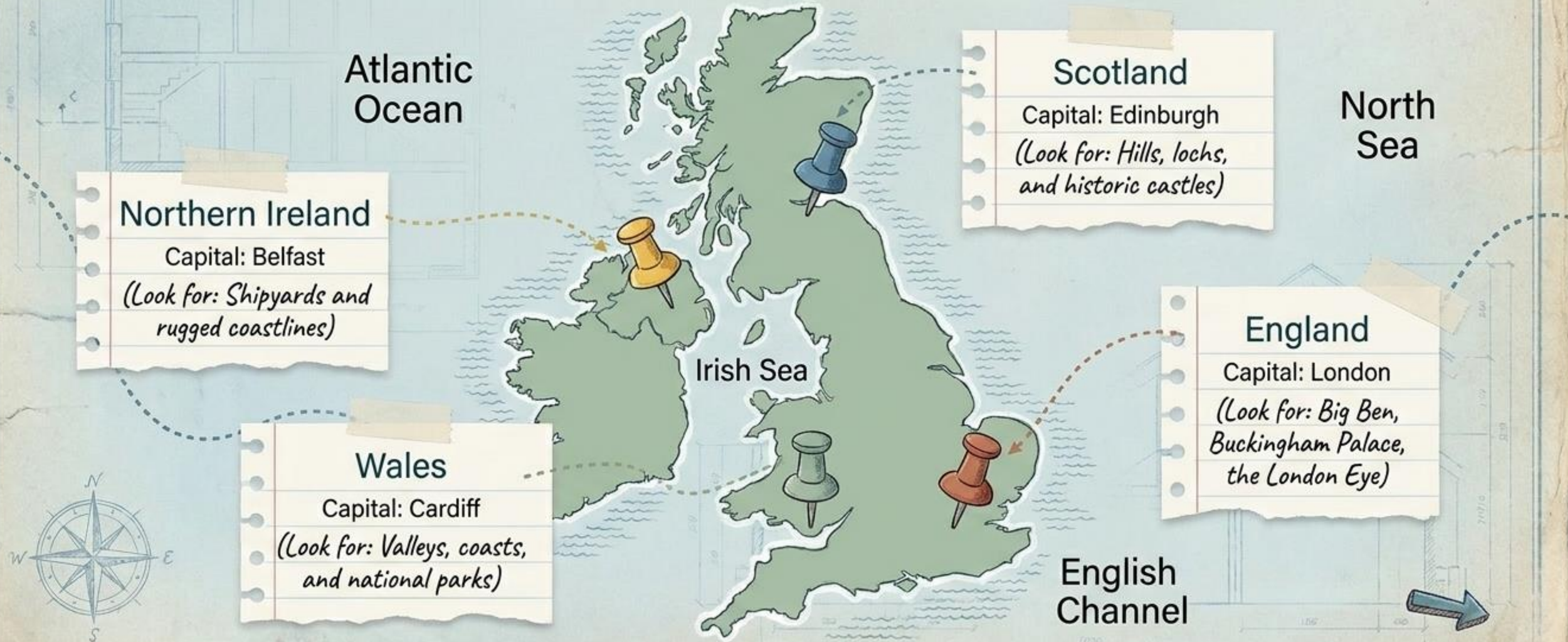
- *Investigate:* Using maps, globes, and our own eyes to explore our local area and the wider world.
- *Interpret:* Spotting clues in photographs to understand what a place is like.

Questioning

- *Question:* Asking "Why is this building here?" or "How is London different from Harborne?"
- *Communicate:* Drawing sketch maps, using directional language, and explaining our discoveries.



Our Autumn Destination: The United Kingdom



The Geographer's Lens: Sorting Our World

Our analytical lens

A key skill in Year 1 is learning to distinguish between the natural environment and the built environment.

Physical Features (Nature-Made)

- **Definition:** Things created by nature. They shape how and where we live.
- **Examples:** Rivers, hills, coasts, seas, and forests.
- **Local vs. Capital:** The hills around the West Midlands vs. the River Thames in London.



Nature's designs.

Human Features (People-Made)

- **Definition:** Things built by people to help us live, work, and travel.
- **Examples:** Houses, roads, shops, bridges, and landmarks.
- **Local vs. Capital:** The shops and roads of the local area vs. Big Ben and the London Eye.



Man-made structures.

Sorting tray model

Sorting tray model

Explorer's Notes



The Learning Map: Where We Are on the Journey

Where We've Been (EYFS / Reception)

Focus: The Immediate World.

- Skills: Exploring the home and school environment.
- Using basic positional language (near, far, next to).



Where We Are (Year 1 Autumn)

Focus: The National World.

- Skills: Identifying the 4 UK countries and capitals.
- Classifying human and physical features.
- Comparing our town (local area) to other UK areas.



Where We Are Going (Year 2 & Beyond)

Focus: The Global World.

- Skills: Comparing local area to a contrasting non-European country (Kenya).
- Understanding global climate zones, biomes, and the 7 continents.



Growing Global Citizens: The Character Compass

Character
Compass

explorer's
notes

explorer's
notes

Stewardship of Creation

The Value: Caring for God's gifts.

The Geography Link: As we learn about the seas, rivers, and hills of the UK, we discuss our responsibility to keep places like local parks in the local area clean and beautiful.

Solidarity

The Value: We are one human family.

The Geography Link: Exploring England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland teaches us that while people live differently across the UK, we all share responsibility for the common good.

Democracy & Rule of Law

The Value: Fairness and safety.

The Geography Link: Learning about London as our capital city helps children understand where rules are made to keep everyone in the country safe and treated fairly.

Individual Liberty

The Value: Freedom to choose.

The Geography Link: By comparing life by the sea, in the city, or in a town like the local area, children see that people have the freedom to choose where and how they live.

Geographical
Connections

Planting Seeds of Ambition

The Explorer's Dictionary



Country: A nation with its own land and government (e.g., Wales).



Capital City: The most important city in a country (e.g., Belfast).



Landmark: A famous building or object that helps you know where you are.



Globe: A round model of the Earth.



Who Could You Become?

We plant seeds of ambition by showing children how these skills are used in the real world.



Cartographer

Drawing and studying maps to help people find places.



Town Planner

Deciding where buildings, parks, and roads should go in places like Oldbury.



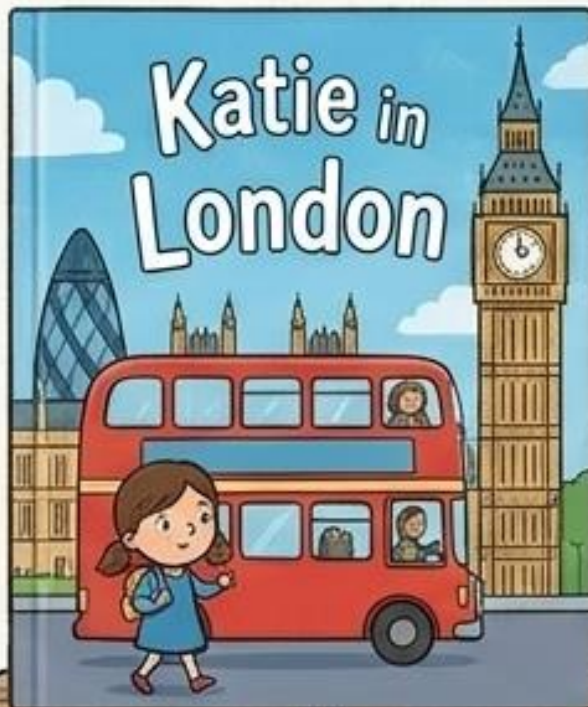
Tour Guide

Discovering and sharing fascinating facts about landmarks.

The Explorer's Bookshelf

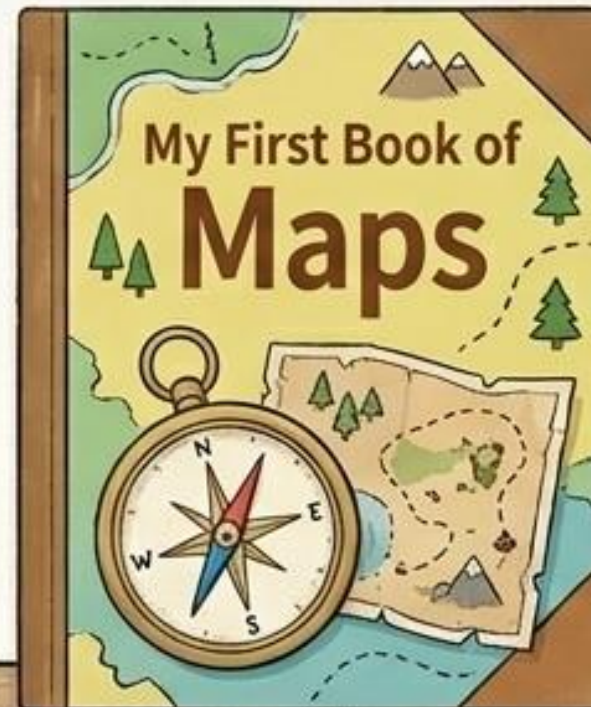
Bring the adventure to bedtime. These texts perfectly support our classroom learning.

*explorer's
notes*



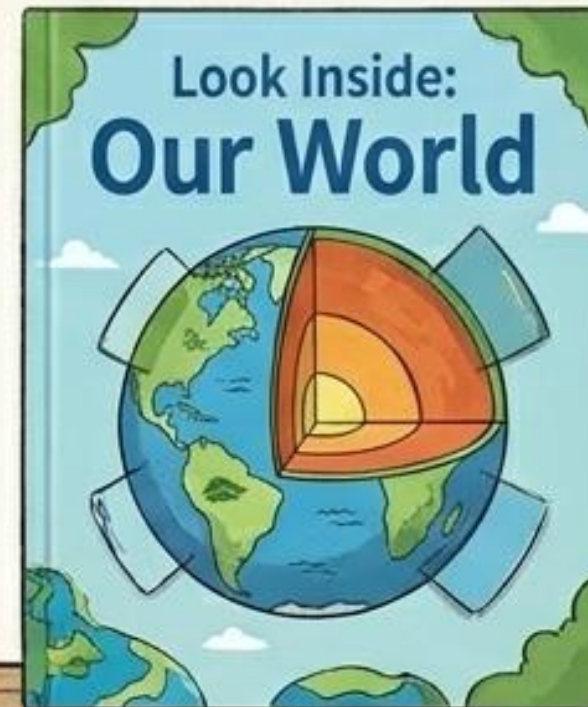
Librarian's Note

Perfect for exploring human features and famous capital landmarks like Big Ben.



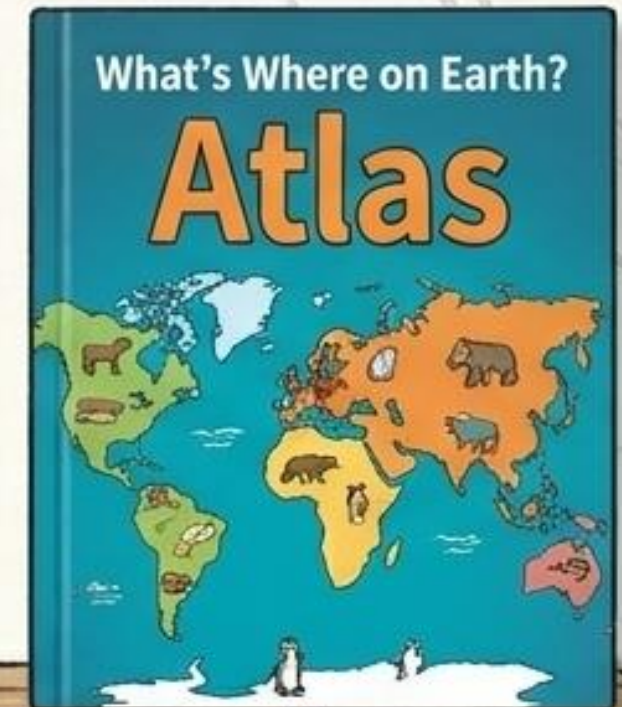
Librarian's Note

Introduces map symbols, compass points, and identifying places on a page.



Librarian's Note

An interactive book to help cement the ideas of countries, seas, and the globe.



Librarian's Note

Great for visualizing the UK in the context of Europe and the wider world.

*Geographical
Connections*



Bringing the Adventure Home

You don't need a formal lesson plan to build a geographer. Try these everyday activities:

*Practice
Directions!*



The School Run Map

Walk and Talk

Practice directional language (left, right, near, far) on the way to school. Point out the human features (post boxes, bus stops) and physical features (trees, hills) of the local area.



The Weather Watcher

Daily Forecast

Check a weather app together or look out all out the window. Talk about how the weather in the West Midlands might be different from a city near the sea.

*Daily
Observation!*



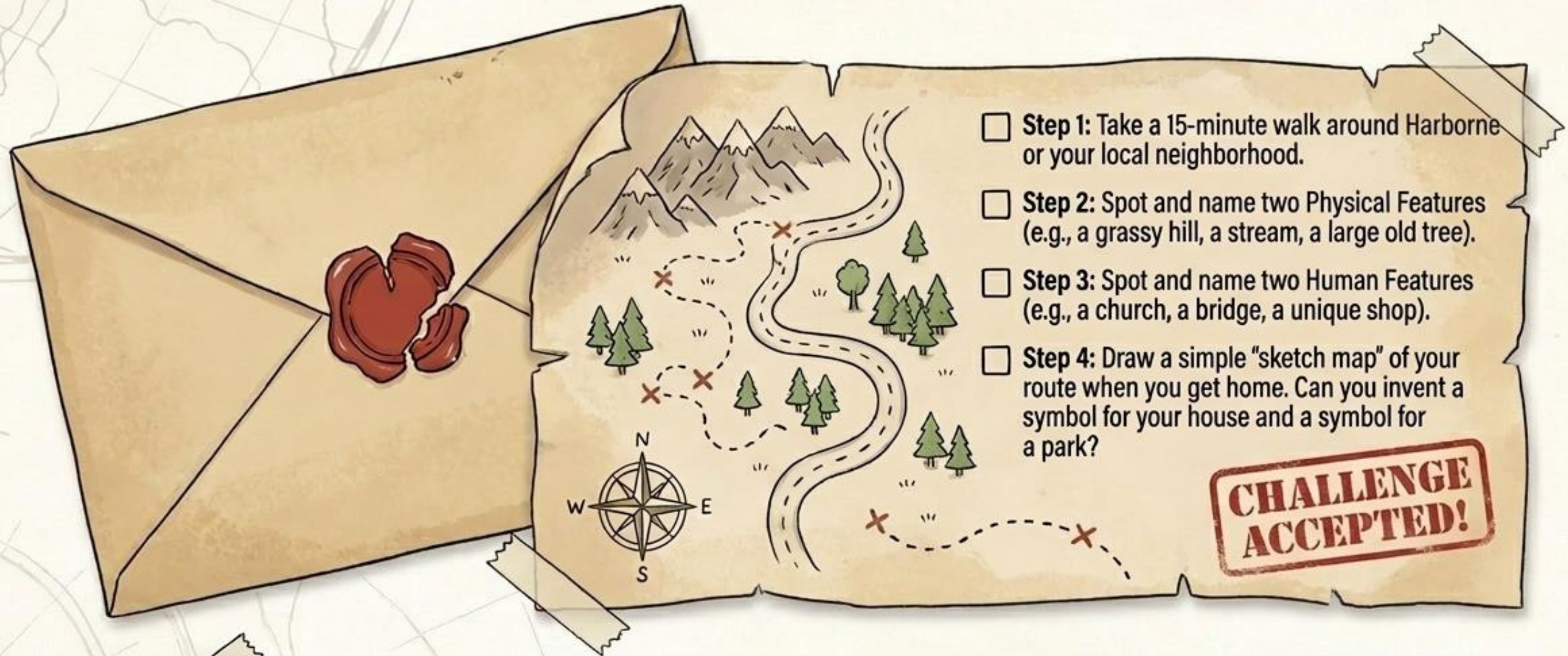
The Room Sort

Nature or People?

Play a quick sorting game with toys. Is this wooden block "nature-made" or "people-made"? Are toy animals physical or human features?

The Family Weekend Challenge

Put your family's Geography Glasses on! We challenge you to a 'Feature Scavenger Hunt' in your local area.



Bring your sketch maps into class to share with our crew of explorers!