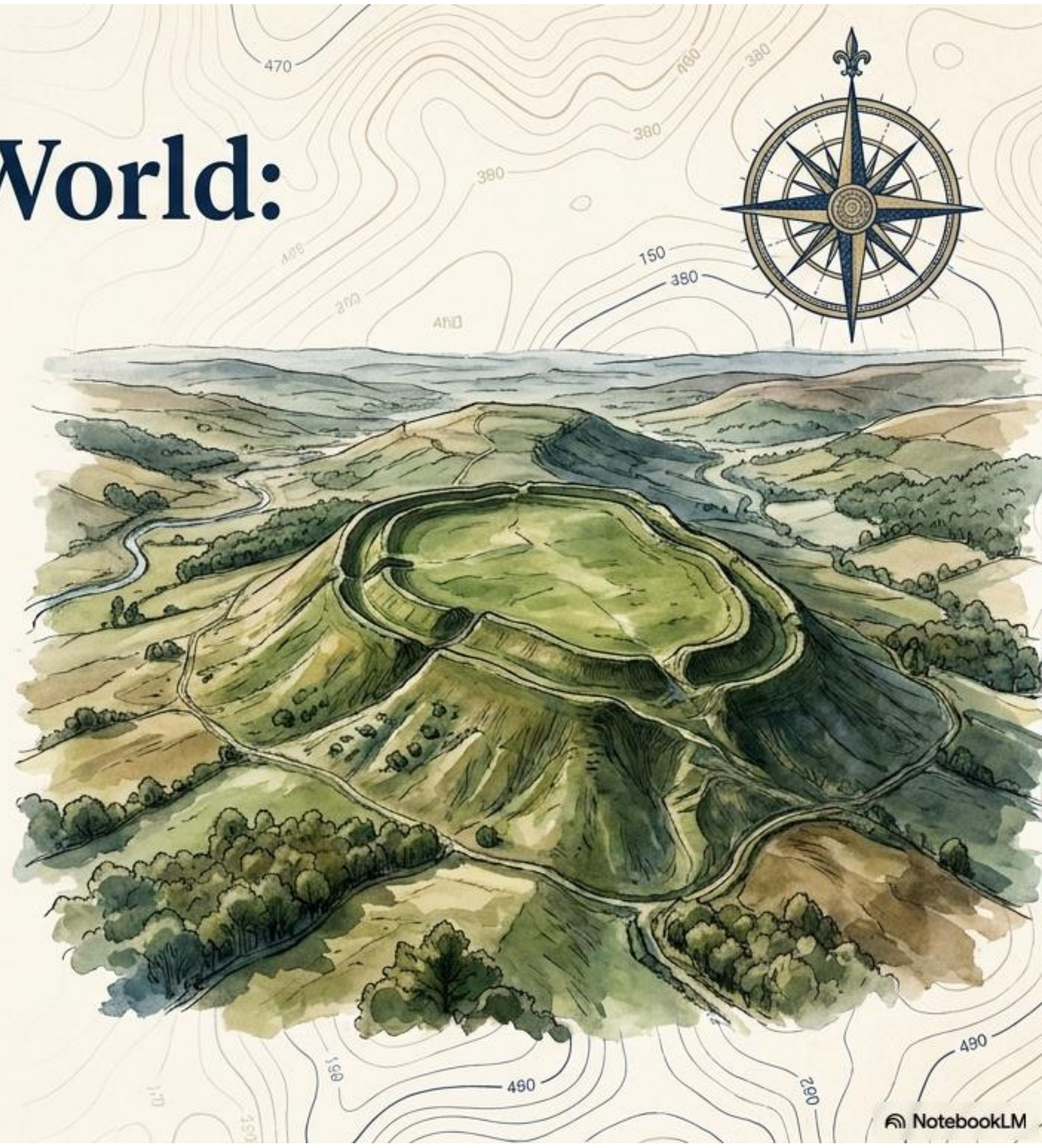


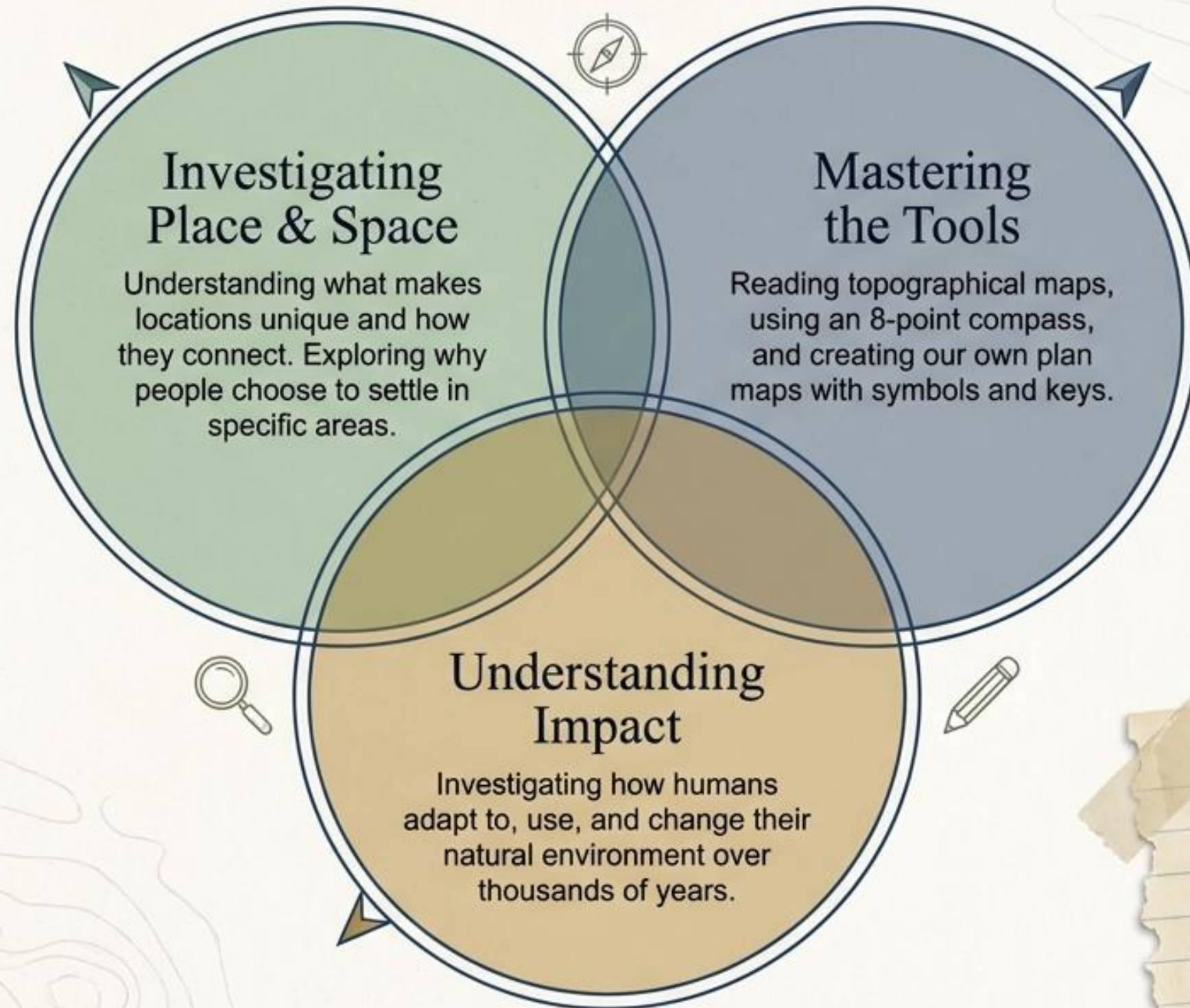
Discovering Our World: Year 3 Geography

A Parent's Field Guide to the Autumn Unit: Early Settlements

Equipping your child with the
skills to read the landscape,
understand the past, and
shape the future.

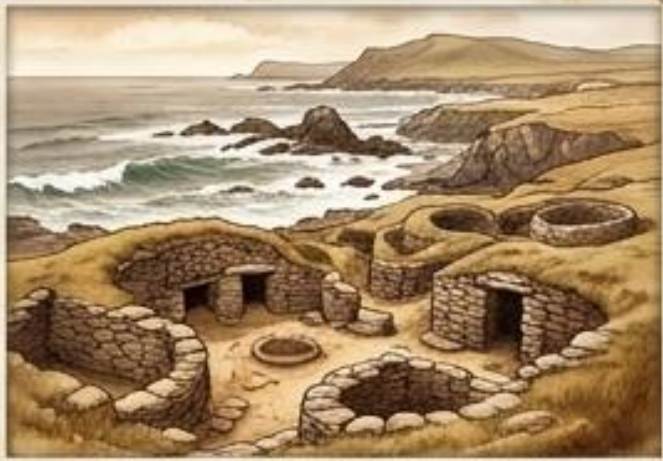


Thinking Like a Geographer



Geography isn't just knowing where places are—it's understanding why they are there.

Our Autumn Expedition: Early Settlements



Skara Brae (Stone Age)
Located on the coast in the Orkney Islands.
A settlement of stone-built homes connected by passages.



Must Farm (Bronze Age)
Located inland in Cambridgeshire.
A settlement showing river life.



The Wrekin (Iron Age)
Located on high ground in Shropshire.
A fortified hillfort near Birmingham.



The Topography Test:
Children will learn to name these counties and understand how the shape of the land (hills, rivers, coasts) dictated where prehistoric people chose to survive.

Then & Now: How Has the Land Changed?

	Ancient Settlements	Modern Birmingham
Land Use	Focused entirely on survival, basic farming, and defense. 	Highly complex zoning for housing, retail, parks, and dense transport networks. 
Physical Features	Deliberately choosing natural advantages (steep hills for protection, coasts for fishing). 	Adapting flat land; natural rivers and terrain are heavily altered by human hands. 
Human Features	Stone huts, wooden palisades, simple dirt passages. 	Brick houses, paved roads, complex skylines, and private gardens. 

The Core Geographical Question: What did a hillfort give people that the flat land of Birmingham does not?

Mapping the Journey: Building on Prior Knowledge

The Foundations
(Looking Back - KS1)



Knowing the 4 countries of the UK, the 4 basic compass points (N, S, E, W), and identifying simple human and physical features (e.g., a hill vs. a house).

The Explorer
(Right Now - Year 3)



Mastering the 8-point compass (NE, SW, etc.), reading topographical features, creating plan maps with keys/symbols, and comparing historical land use.

The Global Citizen
(Looking Ahead - Upper KS2)



Advancing to 4- and 6-figure grid references, studying complex global biomes, and understanding intricate economic trade networks.

Heart, Mind, and Community



Stewardship of Creation

Ancient people lived incredibly close to the land, using natural materials to survive. We use this to reflect on how we must care for and protect God's Earth today.

Solidarity & Community

By exploring different communities across the UK (from Orkney to Oldbury), past and present, we learn to respect differences and understand we are part of one human family.

Human Dignity

We explore how building safe homes, creating rules, and forming strong communities protects people and helps everyone flourish.



Who Are We Becoming?

Every lesson plants a seed of ambition. This term, your child is practicing the skills of:



Cartographers

Creating accurate plan maps with symbols and keys to help visitors navigate historical sites.



Archaeologists

Looking for clues in the landscape to understand why ancient people chose to live there.



Urban Planners

Analyzing land use and thinking about how people use spaces differently today.

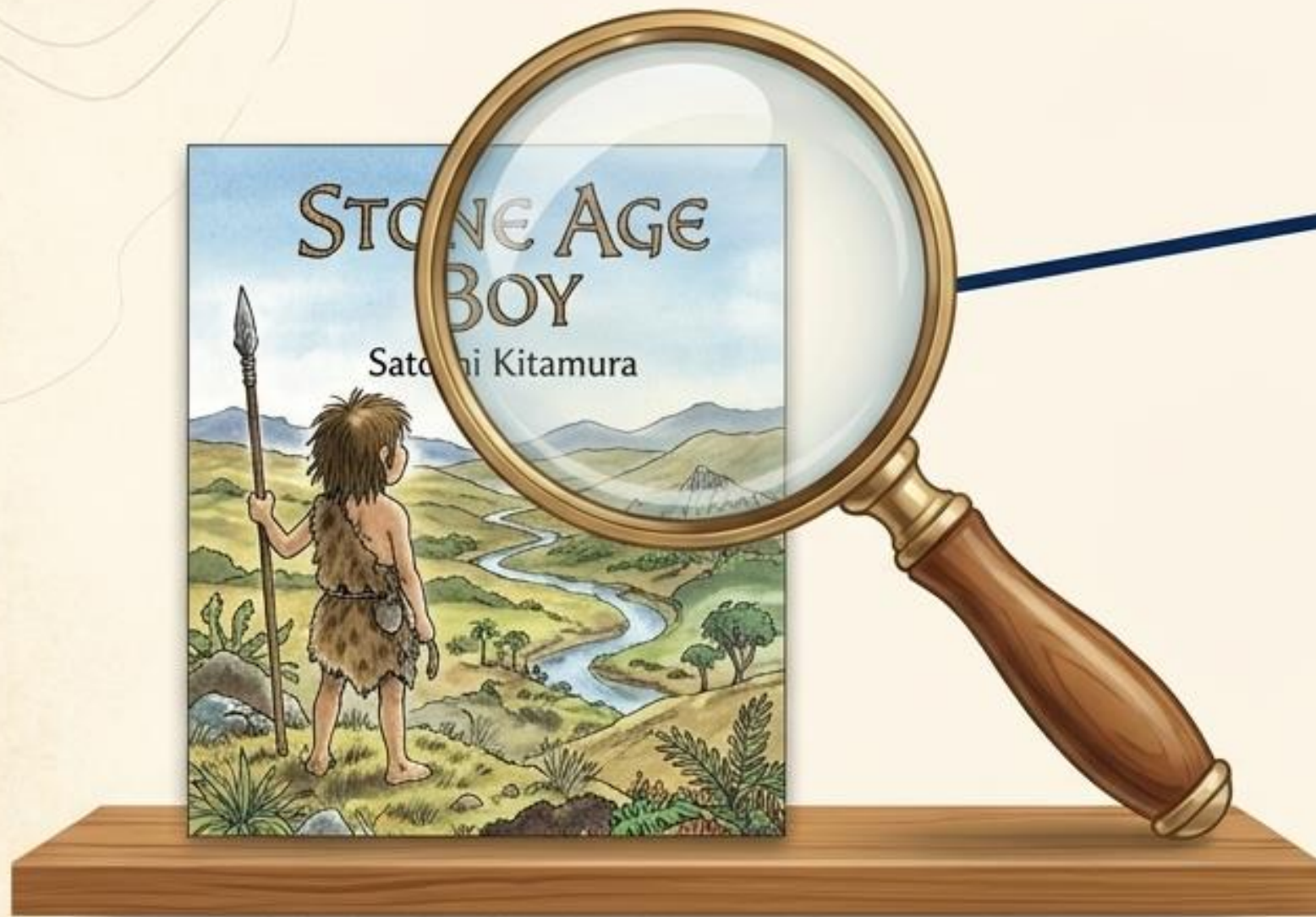


Tour Guides

Communicating geographical features clearly and confidently to an audience.

The Geographer's Bookshelf

Spotlight Book: *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura



The Geography Connection

This beautifully illustrated book provides a fantastic narrative journey, allowing children to visually **compare prehistoric** daily life with the modern world.

Discussion Prompts for Home

- 🧭 Look at the pictures of the camp. Are they near a river, the coast, or a hill?
- 🧭 How does the shape of the land help them survive?
- 🧭 What physical features can you spot that we don't have in Birmingham?

Bringing Geography Home



Navigate Together (In the Car)

Practice the 8 compass points on familiar journeys. Ask: "If Birmingham is South-East of here, which way are we driving?"



Play "Human or Physical?" (Out the Window)

Have them spot features outside the window (roads, hills, parks, houses, rivers) and rapidly categorize them as natural built by humans.



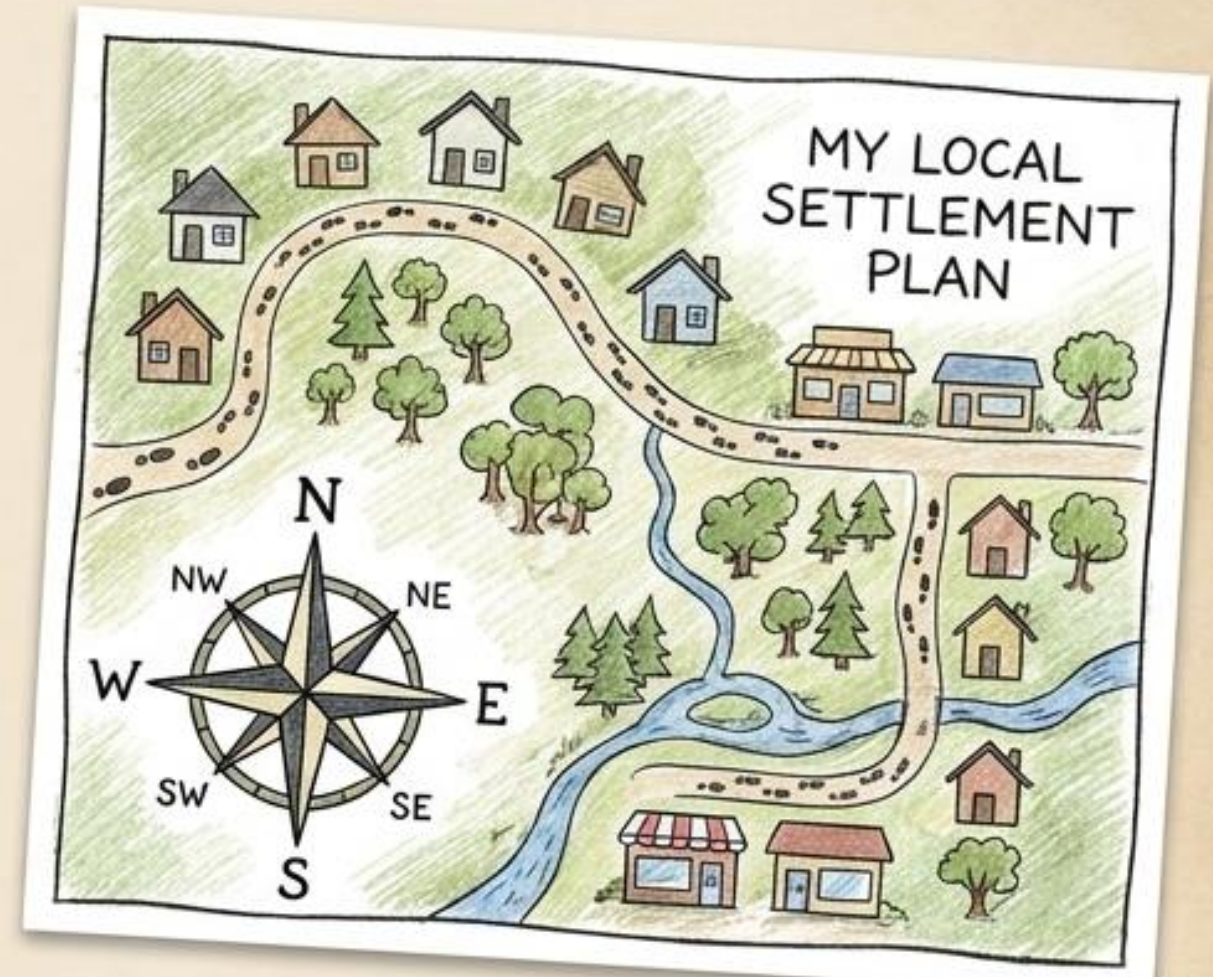
Notice Topography (On a Walk)

Pay attention to the shape of the land. Ask: "Are we walking uphill or downhill right now? Why do you think this specific house or shop was built here?"

Your Weekend Mapping Mission

The Challenge: Map Your Local Settlement!

1. Take an **observational walk** around your immediate neighborhood, local park, or street.
2. Together, draw a “**Bird’s-Eye View**” (plan map) of the area you explored.
3. Create a **Key** with simple symbols for physical features (trees, grass, streams) and human features (houses, shops, bus stops).
4. Add an **8-point compass rose** to your map and label what is North, South, East, and West of your home.



Bring your field map into class to share with our crew of explorers!