

Practical work: Choose a coast

1. Find a map which shows the coast in detail. An Ordnance Survey map is one good source.
2. Place a piece of tracing paper over part of the coast. You should choose a piece of map about 15cm long.
3. Copy the outline of the coast using a soft pencil.
4. Shade in the side of the tracing that is land.
5. On the side of the coast that is sea, write the words 'bay' and 'headland' at every place you can find them. Fasten the tracing to the bottom of this page.

Fasten your tracing here.

Answers

This will depend on individual maps chosen.

Notes

This worksheet focuses on map skills. It is important that children learn that they need to draw slowly, lightly and carefully. They should fasten their tracing paper to the map using Blu-Tak or similar.

Help them to choose a map that has bays and headlands, and not a long stretch of featureless coast. It may be too hard for children to work with a region that has many small coves and inlets.

You may care to photocopy maps (in accordance with the school's photocopying licence) so you do not have to buy too many maps, to make sure all children study the same area and to help you control the map area the children draw. Unless you have a preference, North Cornwall and North Devon are good areas to draw.

The drawing is important. Writing on a photocopy does not develop skills in carefully reproducing an original. By drawing over a map, and saying out loud 'bay' and 'headland' every time they draw one, the children will be actively thinking about what they are drawing.

The best maps are large scale, at least 1:25,000. It may be appropriate to use a map of an area you will be visiting on a field trip or an area which can be the focus of study from the classroom.

You may want to get children to copy more than one stretch of coast, so they can begin to appreciate that coasts vary from one place to another.