

# Unit 1 Introduction

## 1. Whole class instruction

**Objective:** To get children to begin to appreciate the spatial organisation of the world around them from a local perspective.

### 1.1. Multimedia Classroom cinema

**“Where do you live? (get answers). How far is it from school? How far is it from the shops? How far is it from where your friends live? And have you ever thought about why your house/apartment is where it is? Well, we are going to find out now. First we are going to go high above a town by a river. Then we will take a tour around the town, and then we will compare all of this with where we are sitting right now. So let’s get going on our place adventure...”**

- ▶ Some children may find it difficult to see a place from the air, so it is up to you whether you show the classroom cinema video first or video 12. The best thing to do is to point out that it is like a map.
- ▶ The Group Exploration next is to look at your own locality using Google Earth. If students are having difficulty with the videos, then bring up your own locality on Google Earth, zoom in and use street view to show children the comparison between a ‘bird’s-eye’ view and a street view. Then go back to the videos. However, it is important to use the videos as they tell of how the town is organised and we are after getting children to think about how places are arranged and they can only work out their own locality once they have seen another described accurately.



Where we live can be a local study theme.

Play classroom cinema video.

Classroom cinema video show a place from the air and identifies what its features are.

Video 12 shows a tour around the same place as you would see it if driving by car.

## 2a. Group exploration

### My Google Earth

- ▶ Bring up, or print out beforehand, your own locality using Google Earth. Find your school on a satellite and also on a street view version. If you have a map of the area show the map as well. Get children used to seeing features from above, for example rows of houses, churches, roads, railways and so on. Remember also the purpose is spatial recognition, so also ask questions like “Where are the shops from the school?”



Bring up your own locality using Google Earth or do this at home and print off suitable air and street views to show children in class.

## 2b. Literacy activity

### Where I live

- ▶ Get children to write out an itinerary from home to school. They should start “When I leave home I turn left/right and then I go...”

They should do this from memory and so create on paper a mental map. Then they should read out their itinerary and follow it on a print out or whiteboard version of Google Earth. See if their mental map is accurate. Point out things they may have missed. Get them used to looking for more detail.

## 3. Plenary session

- ▶ Get children to say if they can recognise a town and where they live from the air. Discuss what difficulties they may have had and see if between you all you can clarify how to overcome these difficulties.

## 4. Further work/homework

- ▶ Ask children to bring in their own street view of where they live or take one outside the school gates. Can they accurately place where they were standing on a Google earth view?