

Unit 2 City drive

1. Whole class instruction

Objective: To introduce children to the idea that places change as you move from the outskirts to the middle.



1.1. Video 421 Birmingham drive

“We are going to drive from the outskirts to the middle of a city right in the middle of Britain. It is Birmingham. Let’s write down what we see.”

- ▶ The narrative tells about each part of the city and emphasises younger to older as you move to the middle and then explains why some of the most recent change is in the middle.

You may find it useful to pause the video many times. For example, when you get to the out of town shopping area you might pause the video and ask “Do we have one of these? Where is it?” That will maintain local interest.

Video 421.

This builds on the introduction to Google Earth maps and street level views.

2a. Group exploration

My local city

- ▶ Imagine you are going to visit another city. It is somewhere you have not been before. (Choose a city that is isolated (not a conurbation of several cities) and that is far away. For example, choose Edinburgh, Carlisle, Newcastle, Exeter, Norwich. It should NOT be a place you are familiar with as you are going to see if you can imagine it from what you know so far.



- Now choose a route in. Make a screen shot of the whole city, print and mark up your route. Now go and get street views along that route and print those, too. Now put them up on a board. Children (with your help) should try to say the same kinds of things as were said in the Birmingham video.

2b. Literacy activity

My city visit

- From the group exploration, children should write up what they would expect to see as they move from the outskirts to the centre of their chosen city.

Google Earth

3. Plenary session

- Get children to say what they think they have learned and present it perhaps on the whiteboard or in their own books.

4. Further work/homework

- Ask children if they feel this is a good way to get to know the city. Many people use this combination of views when they go to make visits now. We use it whenever we are visiting a school to make sure we know where the school gates are, for example. If visiting someone's home it is nice to know what it looks like and so on.