



Hampshire  
County Council

Improvement and  
Advisory Service

# From Local to Global in Primary Geography: Planning an Effective Place Comparison Study

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# Place Studies in the National Curriculum

## Key Stage 1

- understand geographical **similarities and differences** through studying the human and physical geography of a small area of the United Kingdom, and of a small area in a contrasting non-European country

## Key Stage 2

- understand geographical **similarities and differences** through the study of human and physical geography of a region of the United Kingdom, a region in a European country, and a region within North or South America

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A well-planned place study can cover several NC attainment targets.

# What might an effective place study involve?

cross-curricular links  
if appropriate

locational  
knowledge

map skills

fieldwork

thinking, speaking  
and writing like a  
geographer at  
children's own level

challenging  
misconceptions and  
overgeneralisations

a new context or  
geographical lens

opportunity to  
develop  
geographical  
vocabulary

Which of  
these do you  
currently  
include?

new geographical  
features

links to past and  
future schemes of  
learning

practical use of  
resources, eg  
atlases,  
photographs,  
equipment

# Primrose and Makause In Johannesburg

<https://unequalscenes.com/south-africa>

# Taking the scenic route to avoid overgeneralisations

## Resources to use:

GIS/digital mapping software

Atlases

Globes

Tourism videos

Maps

Aerial photographs

# Similarities as well as differences

Is there a good balance of similarities and differences in your place studies?

<b>Smaller scale maps</b>	<b>Larger scale maps</b>
island near/far-away from coast beaches seasonal weather patterns biomes rivers mountains	schools vegetation supermarkets hotels leisure facilities restaurants discuss experiences of locals/tourists

Animals, schools and familiar adults can also help provide meaningful connections to support children when navigating the abstract wider world.

# Don't forget about the National Curriculum Purpose of Study and Aims!

## Purpose of Study

*“Teaching should equip pupils with knowledge about **diverse** places, people, resources and natural and human environments”*

*“Geographical knowledge, understanding and skills provide the frameworks and approaches that explain how the Earth's features at **different scales** are shaped, **interconnected** and change over time”*

## Aims

*“develop contextual knowledge of the location of globally significant places – both terrestrial and marine – including their defining physical and human characteristics and how these **provide a geographical context for understanding the actions of processes**”*

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# What geography could you include in your place study?

Locational Knowledge

Land use

Sustainability

Economic activity (including trade)

Weather and climate

Interconnections (human and physical)

Natural resources



# What is your local area like?

Features	Areas of NC these features could link to
eg shops, historic buildings, restaurants, rivers, roads, railways, homes, schools, hills, beaches and coasts, farms, vegetation, factories, leisure centres, parks, telephone lines/pylons.	locational knowledge
	h & p feature vocabulary
	land use changes over time
	rivers
	economic activity (including trade)
	natural resource distributions (food, water, energy, minerals)
	climate/climate zones and biomes
	mountains
	<i>Could you include sustainability?</i>

# ‘Is New Milton Infant School in a similar place to Orewa Primary School?’

## What will be covered in this unit using different scales and lenses?

- Locational knowledge of **oceans** and continents
- Human and physical features of both places
- **Compass directions**
- Developing H and P feature vocabulary
- Seasonal weather patterns in both places (introduction to climate)

# 'Is New Milton Infant School in a similar place to Orewa Primary School?'

Summary

Yes

- Both schools are on an island.
- Both schools are near a coast.
- Both schools are in a town that has
  - houses, flats and bungalows
  - roads and fields
  - doctors surgeries
  - primary and secondary schools
  - trees
  - beaches and cliffs
- Both New Milton and Orewa do not have a hospital.

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No

- New Milton Infant School is in the United Kingdom but Orewa Primary School is in New Zealand.
- They are in different continents (Europe, Oceania)
- New Milton is near the Atlantic Ocean but Orewa is near the Pacific Ocean.
- Orewa does not have a fire station but New Milton does. Orewa has no train station.

# ‘Is New Milton Infant School in a similar place to Orewa Primary School?’

## Session 1

- Are both schools on an island?
- Are both schools in the same country?
- Are both schools in Europe?
- Are both schools closer to the North Pole or South Pole?
- Do both schools have a beach nearby?
- Do we have the same ocean near us?

# ‘Is New Milton Infant School in a similar place to Orewa Primary School?’

## Session 2

- Compass directions teach
- Identifying features on playground
- Use Google Maps Street View to travel N, S, E, W of the school
- Creating a simple map with a key

# **‘Is New Milton Infant School in a similar place to Orewa Primary School?’**

## **Session 3 and 4**

- Identifying features in each place using photographs, ‘quotes from residents’, maps and aerial photographs.
- Recorded features in a table to make it easy for children to see the comparisons.

## **Session 5**

- Comparing climates of both places. Answering key question.

# Are Southampton and Le Havre more similar or more different geographically?

## Why have these places been chosen?

- Similarities in **human and physical features** but also differences.
- Both cities – **land use patterns** comparisons
- Both port cities – **economic activity including trade**
- Southampton/London and Le Havre/Paris
- Two small **rivers** (River Test, River Itchen) vs one larger river (River Seine)
- Both have fertile farmland nearby – **climate zones and biomes and trade**
- Similarities in **natural resources** (eg fishing, water, crops) but also differences (timber, oil)

# Are Southampton and Le Havre more similar or more different geographically?

## What geographical lenses can we use?

- Similarities in **human and physical features** but also differences.
- Both cities – **land use patterns** comparisons
- Both port cities – **economic activity including trade**
- Southampton/London and Le Havre/Paris
- Two small **rivers** (River Test, River Itchen) vs one larger river (River Seine)
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# Information about Hampshire Improvement and Advisory Service (HIAS)

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