

Which Map is Best – Teacher's notes

Overview

In this activity pupils meet five characters who are planning a range of different journeys. From the itineraries given, they must decide which of the maps available is the best one for each purpose. The activity introduces the fact that the same projection can be presented in very different ways, as most of the maps available in this activity are variations of the Peters projection world map.

Aims of the resource

- To introduce the idea that there are different views and orientations of the same projection.
- To show how different views of the same map might be better suited to different circumstances.

Key objectives

At the end of this activity pupils will be able to:

- explain why it is useful to have different views and orientations of maps.
- identify an increasing range of countries and continents on a world map.

Using the resource

1. Ensure you have sound switched on so that the dialogue and sound effects will be heard.
2. Click the LAUNCH button to start the activity. (If it doesn't launch, try turning off your pop-up blocker.)
3. Discuss the introductory paragraph, then select (or let the pupils select) one of the characters on the screen.
4. The character will now explain what trip they are planning, and give all the information that the pupils need in order to be able to pick out a suitable map. When the character has finished describing their trip, you are presented with a summary of their requirements and, to the left of the screen, a set of maps to choose from.
5. Use the arrows to scroll up and down through the maps, and when the pupils identify one that they think will work best for the current task, select it and click the THIS MAP IS BEST button.
6. The character will look at the selected map, and if it is not the best one for their journey they will say so, and you have the option to try again or to give up and choose another character. If you have selected the correct map, the character will give thanks, making it clear why this was the best choice for them, and you will have the option to pick another character.
7. Once you have successfully demonstrated the activity with one character, you may want to let pupils work on the other characters independently.
8. When the session is reaching an end, gather pupils together for the Plenary.

Useful information

- Note that for Ms Dynamo and the Monstarz, there are two equally useful maps, so when a correct map for this task is chosen pupils will be given the option of going back to pick out the other map which would also have done the job.
- All of the maps except the Arctic-centred one are different views and alignments of the Peters Projection world map.
- The best map for each person is the one that has most of the relevant places roughly in the centre of the map, or which shows all of their journey unbroken.
- It might be helpful for pupils to have globes or maps handy to help them locate key places.

- Photocopiable outline versions of the maps featured in this activity are available in the Mapping our World book. To order a copy please visit <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/mappingourworld>