

Find the Right Place – Teacher’s notes

Overview

In this activity the pupils have to place country flags in the correct places on the world map. It becomes increasingly difficult as they encounter unfamiliar views and orientations. How well do they really know the map of the world? You might choose to use the first map as a demonstration involving the whole class, and then allow pupils to work independently or in small groups or pairs on subsequent rounds.

Aims of the resource

- To increase (and test) pupils’ familiarity with the world map in an engaging way.

Key objectives

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

- quickly adapt to different views and orientations of the world map.
- quickly locate countries that are of particular importance to them (such as Great Britain) on any world map.

Using the resource

1. Click the LAUNCH button to start the activity. (If it doesn’t launch, try turning off your pop-up blocker.)
2. You are presented with a standard UK-centred Peters projection world map, and six flag pins (with the names of the countries they represent).
3. Drag the flags to the correct places on the map, and they will stick. If you try to place them on the wrong countries, the flags will glide back to their starting point for you to try again.
4. To redo the same task, simply click the CLEAR PINS button in the right-hand panel. All the map pins will return to their starting points.
5. Having completed the first (and most familiar) map as a class, you can now send the pupils to complete the other maps independently in pairs or small groups. To the right of the screen is a panel with the numbers 1 to 6. Here you can select any of the six different maps – each has a different view and a different selection of countries to place.
6. **NB Suggest that the pupils locate Britain first on each map, to help them get their bearings before they try to place any of the other countries.**
7. It is extremely useful to have globes or atlases to hand as some of the countries are not particularly well-known. The pupils can work cooperatively with one pupil using the globe or atlas to give clues to the other pupil who is at the computer. They may want to work competitively – who can place the flags correctly in the shortest time?
8. At the end of the session, gather the pupils together for a quick plenary session. You may use this time to revisit the maps and see who can remember where some of the countries are *without* reference to a globe or atlas. Alternatively you can click the Plenary button to jump to some questions for discussion.

Useful information

- To make the activity harder, click the HIDE MAP LABELS button in the right-hand panel to remove the ocean and continent labels.
- Antarctica doesn’t have an officially-recognised flag because it is not really a country in its own right. However, the flag used in the activity is often used to represent Antarctica.

- All of the maps are variations of the Peters projection world map cut up and oriented in different ways, except Map 6 which is a Mercator map.
- If pupils are placing the flags on the interactive whiteboard, make sure that they press with consistent pressure or the flag will fly back.
- 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>