

Teaching about distant localities

CPD activity 5: Using stories

Stories are an excellent way of enabling children to feel what it might be like to be somewhere else or in someone else's shoes. They can extend the range of children's imagining and, whether they are set in unfamiliar contexts or familiar environments, they will be a major stimulus to thought and discussion about places.

Some locality packs include stories. However, as with everyday objects, it is important that the story used is locality specific. A story set in Ecuador should not be seen as giving accurate information on a specific locality such as Otavalo in the Andean region.

Sharing stories

Aim:

To share ways of using stories.

What to do:

You will need a flip chart and pen, and a selection of story books.

Ask teachers to share ideas on how stories might be used in studies of localities in the South and note these on the flip chart. Three suggestions from Oxfam courses have been:

Questioning

Show the book cover and ask 'where is it?', 'what is it about?'

Speech bubbles

Ask pupils to fill in speech and/or thought bubbles for characters pictured in a story.

Role playing

Ask pupils to take up positions exactly like those in a picture.

Use this as a starting point for enacting their own story.

Acknowledgement: *'Long Ago and Far Away'*, Birmingham DEC.