

KS1 – Lesson Plan 3 – Geography

How can we use art to show the places that are important to us?

Aim: Children will learn to observe and record features of their local area and represent them artistically, exploring how art can be used to communicate a sense of place.	Key Words: Local area, landmarks, buildings, nature, landscape, sketching, painting, perspective, features, map.	Preparation: - Photos of local landmarks and landscapes (or a short local walk if possible) - Drawing paper, pencils, coloured pencils, watercolours or poster paints - Clipboards (if sketching outdoors) - Large sheet for a collaborative display map
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Prior Learning: Children may have seen or drawn familiar places before but may not have thought about their importance or how to represent them accurately in art.

WC / PT	<u>Warm-up:</u> Show pictures of famous places (e.g., Big Ben, the Angel of the North, Stonehenge) and ask: “What makes these places special?” Then show local landmarks and ask the same. Discuss how we can show these features through art.	0-5 mins
WC	<u>Main Teach:</u> Explain that artists often capture the “feel” of a place through colours, shapes, and details. Demonstrate how to sketch simple outlines of buildings, trees, or rivers. Discuss how to choose colours that reflect the environment.	5-10 mins

I / S	<u>Activity:</u> Children choose a local feature (school building, park, river, or shop) to draw or paint. They focus on key shapes, colours, and any distinctive details. If time allows, start to combine individual drawings to create a collaborative “Our Local Area” map display.	10-30 mins
I	<u>Extension Challenge:</u> • Add a small detail (like people or animals) to show how the space is used. • Try drawing the same place from a different perspective (e.g., close-up or bird’s-eye view).	30-35 mins
WC	<u>Plenary:</u> Children share their artwork with the class, explaining what place they chose and why it’s important to them. Arrange the pictures around a large map of the local area for a classroom display.	35-40 mins

WC – Whole Class

PT – Partner Talk

I – Independent

S - Support

Challenge A	Geography Link: Use a simple map to mark where each chosen place is located.
Challenge B	History Link: Research whether your chosen place has changed over time and draw a “past” version alongside your artwork.