

The UK: Around the Counties

Aim: To name and locate counties and cities of the United Kingdom, geographical regions and their identifying human and physical characteristics, key topographical features (including hills, mountains, coasts and rivers), and land-use patterns; and understand how some of these aspects have changed over time in the context of UK counties. I can name and locate some of the counties of the UK. To use maps, atlases, globes and digital/ computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied in the context of counties of the UK. I can use a map to locate some of the counties of the UK.	Success Criteria: I can explain what a county is. I can name some counties local to my area. I can find my county on a map. I can identify some counties local to my area on a map.	Resources: Lesson Pack Tourist leaflets and books about your county/area Access to websites about your area
	County, country town.	Preparation: Differentiated My County Activity Sheet (relevant to your location) – 1 per child Prepare an A4 envelope with a full UK address (including county)

Prior Learning: It will be helpful if children have experience using information books and leaflets to find key information.

Learning Sequence

	UK Addresses: Show children the addressed envelope. What does each part tell the Post Office? Look at the county name. What is this part? (It's the county.) What is a county? Why do we have counties?							
	What Is a County? After discussing the children's ideas, use this slide to explain what a county is and why we have them. Explain that a county is a smaller area of the UK containing lots of towns and villages. They are the top level of local government. They control the local area and the services within, such as education, transport, policing, fire and public safety, social care, libraries and waste management.							
	UK Counties: How many counties of the UK can you think of? Can you name counties in all four countries of the UK? (See Adult Guidance UK Counties for a complete list.)							
	Our County: Click on your country map to see the counties within it. Can you find the county we are in? What counties are our neighbours?							
	My County: Children use the differentiated My County Activity Sheet relevant to their location to complete a fact file about their county. <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Children mark their town, label the neighbouring counties and identify key features of the area.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Children mark their town and label the neighbouring counties. They use books/the Internet to identify key features of the area.</td> <td style="text-align: center;"></td> <td>Children mark their town, label the neighbouring counties and use books/the Internet to research additional facts.</td> </tr> </table>		Children mark their town, label the neighbouring counties and identify key features of the area.		Children mark their town and label the neighbouring counties. They use books/the Internet to identify key features of the area.		Children mark their town, label the neighbouring counties and use books/the Internet to research additional facts.	
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	What Are We Famous For? Together, use the Internet to find out more information about your county. Which famous people grew up there? Do you have a county day? What foods are associated with your area? Allow children time to add to their fact files.							

Taskit

- Exploreit:** Find out more about how your local council works. Invite a councillor in to speak to your class about what happens at council meetings. Take your class to visit your local council offices or town hall.
- Compareit:** Look at the model of governance in your local area. How does it compare to the way your school is run? Which jobs are similar? How do the citizens of your school get to influence the decisions school leaders make?
- Playit:** Use this [English Counties Card Game](#) to help reinforce the location of English counties.