

PARENT NOTES

Geography

Coasts: Interactions



At A Glance:

- ✓ Human & Physical Geography
- ✓ Key Stage 3
- ✓ Low, mid, high ability range
- ✓ National Curriculum 2014
- ✓ Focusing on the concept of 'interactions'
- ✓ Pre-visit, on-site and follow-up activities available in project pack.

What's Involved?

Students will be learning about the human and physical geography of Portsmouth Harbour and the surrounding area of the Solent, taking photos of different types of vessels in the harbour and Solent, sketching the harbour, and examining evidence of defences and the need for these.



*"Life is like a landscape.
You live in the midst of it
but can describe it only
from a vantage point in the
distance..."*

- Charles Lindbergh

About this activity

Before their visit, students will be learning the meaning of the terms 'physical' and 'human' geography, and also 'site' and 'situation'.

A variety of activities on the worksheet help students to get to grips with these terms, and consolidate their understanding of the key concepts before they then board the ferry and cross the Solent. In order to prepare them for their visit, they will find out about Portsmouth, Portsmouth Harbour, and the Naval Base/defences located in and around this location.

Then, during their crossing, students will carry out a range of varied and stimulating activities; their sketching, observational and photographic, and interpretation/analytical skills will all be tested to really get 'under the skin' of the physical and human geography in evidence.

The worksheet then culminates with an activity where they use a Geographical Information System (GIS) online to find out about vessels and their movement into and out of, and around, Portsmouth Harbour.

All aspects of what they have learned are brought together in summary questions to finish.

Questions & Answers

What is the task?

- ▶ This is a geography task which enables students to make first-hand observations of the physical (climate change, landscape and coasts) and human geography (settlement, human activities, e.g. transport) of a specific area.
- ▶ Students will learn about the physical and human geography of the area; specifically, they will learn about the natural (physical) characteristics that made this a good site for the settlement and harbour developments, including the 'defence' aspect.
- ▶ They will learn about how physical geography enables the development and growth of human activities and about how these, in turn, then affect the physical character of the place - that physical and human geography interact!
- ▶ The activities on the worksheet guide students through learning about the key features of both the physical and human geography of this location, and how these interact to form the present day character of the place.

Questions & Answers

How does this link to my child's learning?

- ▶ Below are the relevant links to the current Department for Education Key Stage 3 Geography Programme of Study, showing where this resource fits into your child's studies:
 - ✓ Understand, through the use of detailed place-based exemplars at a variety of scales, the key processes taking place in physical and human geography
 - ✓ Understand the use of natural resources (the use of the coast and the Solent as a 'resource')
 - ✓ Understand the interactions between human and physical geography, and that human activity relies on the effective functioning of natural systems
 - ✓ Develop their geographical skills in analyzing and interpreting different sources, including the use of fieldwork to investigate contrasting locations
 - ✓ Interpret a range of sources of geographical information, including maps, photographs and Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
 - ✓ Communicate information in a variety of ways

The activities in this resource enable students to cover the above aspects of their specification.

What will they learn?

- ▶ How to define the meaning of the terms 'physical geography', 'human geography', 'site' and 'situation' and be able to also give the names of, and definitions of, the sub-categories of economic activity (with examples of each).
- ▶ To describe both the physical and the human geography of Portsmouth Harbour and the surrounding area of the Solent, and compare this to what it was once like, including the role of defence both past and present.
- ▶ Some students will be able to describe and explain the interaction between the physical and human geography of the area.
- ▶ How to use GIS to investigate vessel movements, and use information gathered to comment on the importance of Portsmouth Harbour.

How does this enrich study undertaken in school?

- ▶ Nothing beats first-hand experience of what is learnt in school. Seeing the site, and the 'geography' of this area first-hand will allow them to appreciate the physical nature, and the different and varied human activities, here. Students would not get the same 'sense' of the place from a textbook or still images, as they are able to do being their first-hand and making observations for themselves.
- ▶ This activity involves a lot of fundamental skills in geography, making observations in the field and conducting primary fieldwork such as making observations, interpreting maps and photos, sketching, and recording information in a table which can then be analysed.
- ▶ Also, good fieldwork is fun! Students have the opportunity to fully engage with the subject and immerse themselves in it; this is something which will hopefully enthuse them and instill in them a curiosity about the world around them for the rest of their lives.
- ▶ Portsmouth Harbour, and the Naval Port here, is important on both a national and international scale. Students will be able to make first hand observations of the daily 'life' of the harbour and port, as well as gaining, through the activities in the resource, and understanding of the importance of it on a wider scale.
- ▶ By drawing comparisons to their own area, and other areas that they have visited, they will be gradually building up a picture of the rich and varied geographical world around them.

What can they do in preparation?

- ▶ Students can use the internet and/or books to ensure that they fully understand the meaning of the terms associated with the worksheet activities (see above)
- ▶ The following website is the one used in the worksheet, which students use before their visit, in order to understand the key terms 'site' and 'situation':

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/geography/urban_environments/settlement_characteristics_rev2.shtml

It is essential that students have a secure understanding of the key terms and theory before their trip

- ▶ Students may wish to find out more about Portsmouth/Portsea, Portsmouth Harbour, the Naval Port, or the defences in this area, such as Solent Forts, using their own research of websites.

What skills do they need to demonstrate?

- ✓ Observational skills - the ability to observe and interpret features of both the physical and the human geography that they can see, and record them accurately in written and picture form.
- ✓ Literacy – using the guidance on the worksheet to complete the activities as instructed to do so. Lower ability students will be provided with hints, additional guidance and sentence starters/writing frames to assist them with this, as well as the support of their teacher.
- ✓ Working with others – collaborating and cooperating with other students to complete activities and support each other's understanding.
- ✓ Working independently – showing that they can follow instructions to complete an activity on their own, within the time frame and following the expectations given to them.
- ✓ Geographical skills will be practised, e.g. making and recording observations during fieldwork, interpreting maps and photos, and using GIS.

Helpful Resources

Encourage your child to research Portsmouth's geographical harbour features!

This activity was compiled by **Education Destination** in conjunction with **Wightlink Ferries**. We help students of all ages and abilities to experience excellent curriculum based learning opportunities at many Island venues and attractions.



edudest.info

On **Wightlink Ferries** you'll find an amazing location for learning! Three routes that showcase geography and history at its finest! Explore the history of defence and explore Ryde's glorious past! Fabulous learning in many subjects and topics!



wightlink.co.uk

For further reading about harbour features in geography, **wikipedia** offers an excellent range of articles. This would serve as an ideal introduction for learners prior to their visit, and is suitable for ages 7 upwards.



wikipedia.org

