LOCATION DETECTIVES

Map it! Where is this place? Can you give an absolute location? Grid Reference? Postcode? Address? GIS reference point? Can you write a detailed location description? Find this place on a map and compare to reality on the ground. Add details of features to a topographical scale map of the area. And / or create your own map. Decide what data you will find and measure.

Scale It! Map and measure the area using conventional and other measuring methods e.g. time to walk route / perimeter, number of steps as well as metres etc. Investigate a metre square patch or patches within the larger area using magnifying glasses. Gather weather data from points and regional sources.

Record it! Photograph, film, count, accurately sketch features. Trace It! Use laminated sheets without a paper insert to trace over shapes in the landscape. What is this place like in factual non contested terms? E.g. What time of day, week or year is it? What living and non living things can you find in this space?

Journey String / stick Gather items sequentially along a route and map where found. Use these to recount what a place is like. Either tie objects to a string or to a stick.

Colour Bars Use sticky card to gather a small selection of colours and textures from the area. Or use an App such as Freeze Paint to do this digitally.

Sound Maps Stand still and listen very carefully and try to identify different sounds and the direction they are coming from. Use lines of different length from a centre point to describe distance and direction of the sounds you hear.

Sounds like Close your eyes and listen – can you hear a sound that is the result of human activity and one that comes from nature? Explain what they are and where they are from. Code different sounds.

Senses around me Tune in quietly to your surroundings and using your senses, focus on what you can see, smell, hear and feel around you. Either describe this to others or write brief responses.

Words! Create a group Haiku - use the words you have collected to describe your feelings about the place you are in. Write a haiku poem – it is only 3 lines long. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line has 7 syllables and the third line has 5 syllables.

OR - just choose five words which describe a locality.

Score it! Devise a set of criteria to evaluate a place using a scaled score for attributes. Or, just evaluate using 'smiley', 'not sure' and 'sad faces'. Get the response on a post - it note and in a photograph of that place.

And Feel it! How does this place make you feel? Safe? Scary? Relaxed? What emotions will you select? How will you

measure them and record them? Where

will you measure them?

Another View Visit a place in role, e.g. pretend you are looking through the eyes of a toddler, a senior citizen or a disabled person and imagine how they would feel about that place and what they could do there. You could use some cardboard 'empathy' glasses to help get into role!

Community Quotes Canvass the local community about their views using pupil - written questionnaires. Invite parents and locals in to view an exhibition of collated views.

Or just gather quick responses from people out and about and record using digital recorders or post its. Link to map.

An Ideal Spot Imagine you are one of the living non - human beings in this pale and evaluate the positives and negatives of your location. How ideal is it and why? What do you think would make it better for that living thing and why? might change?

What happens here? Take an objective approach and record what happens here in terms of land use and people / bio - activity at different scales. E.g. people's actions - what are people doing here? What do other living things do here? Try and record objectively.