Year 7
Subject: Geography
Topic/Unit: Map Skills (My Local Area)
When: HT 2

Huntington School
Learn and succeed

Overview: This unit introduces students to what maps can show us and how to use them effectively. The unit focuses on the UK and their local area. Students learn how to use OS maps by becoming proficient map readers who can use distance, direction, grid references and symbols.

Why this? Why now? Students need to be able to read maps to access a range of topics at KS3 and KS4. Maps are used throughout the KS3 and 4 courses to look at the human and physical features of places at a range of scales.

Building on...building to: this unit builds on knowledge of maps from KS2 which can be varied depending on primary school and on the atlas work completed in first half term. Map skills are needed in future topics such as Coasts in year 7 (identifying coastal features) and Rivers of Ice in year 9 (looking for evidence of glaciation in the UK). The map skills in this topic are those that form part of the KS4 and 5 AQA specifications.

Sequence summary:

- My local area
- UK human features
- UK physical features
- OS maps – symbols
- OS maps – height
- OS maps - 4 figure grid references
- OS maps – 6 figure grid references
- OS maps – distances
- OS maps – directions
- Contour models

Key Vocabulary:

- Scale – local. Regional, national, global
- Human (manmade), Physical (natural)
- Key – a visual guide to help explain the symbols on a map
- Grid reference – a system similar to co ordinates to locate places on a map
- Contour line – brown lines on maps to show relief

Assessments: Regular recall and retrieval tasks on whiteboards throughout each lesson to check understanding and dispel misconceptions. Short quizzes on each skill at the start and end of lessons.

Able and interested: Visit the 'mapzone' section of the Ordnance Survey website to put your map skills to the test with a series of tasks and games. Listen to 'Mapping the World' on BBC sounds.

Inclusion, Personal Development and Wider Skills: Tasks are scaffolded to build confidence. Repeated practice of skills each lesson brings about confidence and proficiency. Mant tasks are designed to be paired work to develop teamwork skills. Numeracy skills are important in this topic. Creativity skills when making the contour models – materials and lunchtime slots are available to students who may require support.

Homework and Independent Learning: In this topic homework involves a focus on their local area initially followed by a long-term piece of work set after lesson 5 where students make a model to show height. Students bring their models in to show their peers, and the best 3 models are shared with the year group.