

LEARNING ACTIVITIES & SUCCESS CRITERIA

I can link local placenames to the different cultures that have shaped our area – Gaelic, Viking and English.

- Choose a variety of placenames within your local area and research their origins.
- Work out how you can tell if a placename is of Gaelic, Scandinavian, English or other origin, by identifying the main features (eg beinn/ben – Gaelic for hill, vat/bhat – Old Norse for loch).
- Colour code a local map to show the origins of placenames.
- Locate on a map of Europe where the different languages of your local placenames originated.

I can interpret the landscape through the meaning of some of our placenames.

- Visit local places featuring a particular placename element – eg vat (loch), abhainn/aibhne (river).
- Write an imaginative story putting yourself in the place of the person who first named the place, describing how you decided on the name.
- Look at the placenames of another part of the country, and see if you can guess what they mean.
- Make up your own map of an island with hills, lochs, rivers, towns and villages, and name each place.

I can draw a rough map, placing my area in a Scottish, British and European context.

- Study maps of your own area, Scotland, the UK and Europe.
- Look at places using tools such as Google Earth.
- Compare sizes of countries in Europe.
- Draw your own rough map of Britain/Europe highlighting your own area within it.

QUESTIONS TO CHECK HIGHER ORDER THINKING SKILLS

Having looked at local placenames, can you see any common features?

How can you tell that a placename is Gaelic/Viking/etc?

Why do you think Vikings came here from Scandinavia?

Do you think our ancestors made a good job of naming the landscape? Why?

Why do you think one name got chosen and established?

Why do we need placenames?

Do you think placenames on maps are always correct?

Which type of map do you prefer to use and why – paper, sat nav systems, Google maps, etc?



EXPERIENCES & OUTCOMES

I can discuss why people and events from a particular time in the past were important, placing them within a historical sequence.

SOC 2-06a

To extend my mental map and sense of place, I can interpret information from different types of maps and am beginning to locate key features within Scotland, UK, Europe or the wider world.

SOC 2-14a

LINKS/RESOURCES

<http://www.gaelicplacenames.org/databasedetails.php?id=219>

<http://www.smo.uhi.ac.uk/gaidhlig/aite/lorg.php?seorsa=beurla&facal=forsagaidh&tairg=Lorg>

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/resources/historical-map-resources/scandinavian-glossary.html>

ainait.e-storas.com

Paper maps and atlases

