URBAN NATURE CHALLENGE

Urban Nature

Objectives:

- Draw a map of your neighbourhood
- Find your home on an online map
- Research the problems associated with accessing green space.
- Go for a walk to your local park

A map is a representation or model of a particular place. Maps give us a universal way of communicating. They are easily understood and appreciated by most people but not all maps contain the same information.

Every map is shaped by its <u>purpose</u> (think about a road map vs a walking map) and <u>who</u> created it (what might a biologist put on a map that a city planner would not?).

If you don't have access to a computer make sure you have a piece of paper and pen so you can write your answers down as you go through the worksheet.

Watch me - Challenge 1

To get you inspired and thinking more about mapping, we set our Groundwork gardener Ben a lockdown nature challenge.

Watch this video to find out what he got up to:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLy8oUgORYI
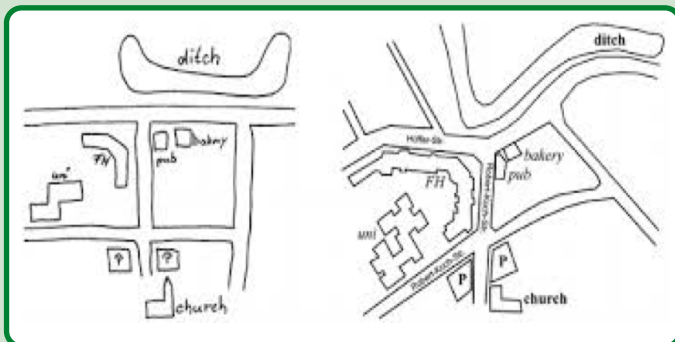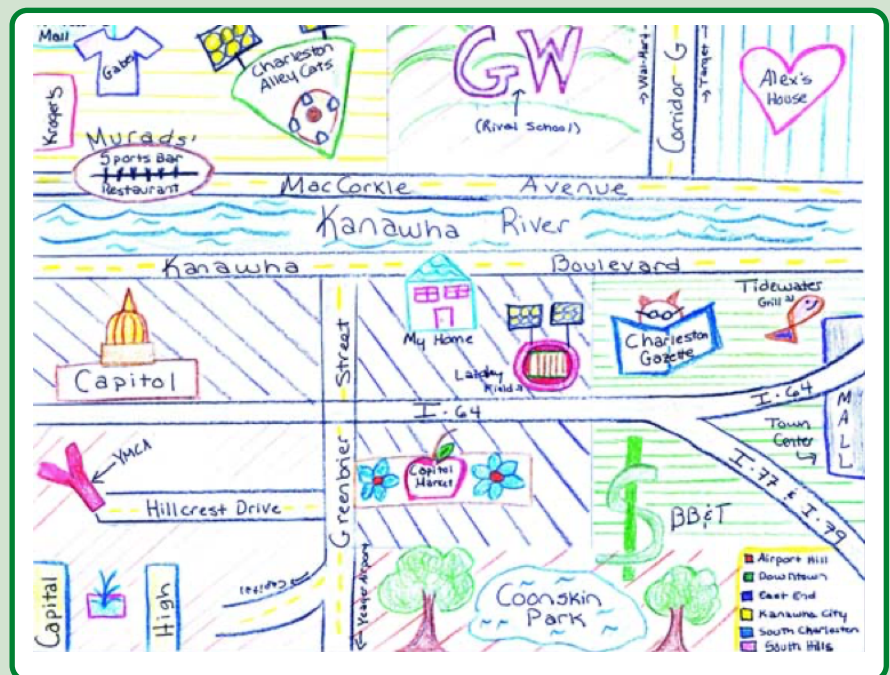
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Task 1

For this task you will need: A piece of paper, a pencil/ pen. If you have colouring pencils or felt tips you can also use those.

Draw a sketch map of your local area – be as creative as you'd like!
Once you've finished your map take a photo of it.

Your map should include:

- A label for your house
- A compass with North pointing to the top of your map
- Labels for all of your features

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Task 2

Now that you've created your own map, we're going to take a look at another map of your local area. To get started follow the steps below:

- Go to https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

- Zoom in until London is in the centre of your screen – now use your mouse and the zoom button to find your home.

- Once you have found your home change the view of the map from standard to aerial. You can do that by clicking on this button ⬛ at the bottom right of your screen.

What can you see in the Aerial map that you could not see before in the standard map?
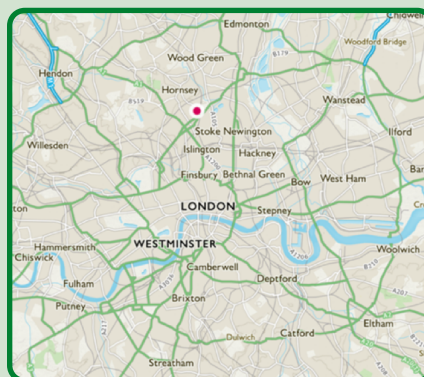

Change your map view from Aerial to Greenspace.
Find the names of the three green spaces closest to your home.
Click on the ? button to see a key that will explain the type of greenspace you are looking at.

From what the map has shown you, complete the table below:

	Name	Type of Green space
Green space 1		
Green space 2		
Green space 3		

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Task 3

Think back to the last time you were in a green space, either your garden or a park.
How did you feel when you were outside? Think about using all of your senses.

Write down three words:

There are many physical and mental health benefits from being outside but green space is also important in a number of other ways.

Read the short article on this website:
www.urbanespora.es/en/the-8-benefits-of-spreading-green-spaces-in-cities

Now write down two benefits of urban green space:

1

2

Task 4

As you can see urban green space, like much of the natural world, provides many positive benefits. Some economists have come up with the theory of "**Natural Capital**" as a way of measuring these benefits.

Natural capital can be defined as the "services" or "goods" provided by the natural world. An example would be the way that a tree provides the shade needed to keep our cities cool. Areas with low levels of natural capital are likely to have fewer accessible green spaces.

The Mayor of London has created a map of all of London's **Natural Capital**.

View the map at: https://maps.london.gov.uk/naturalcapitalreport/index.html

Using the legend at the side of the screen write the names of London's two boroughs with the lowest natural capital.

Borough 1:

Borough 2:

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Task 4 continued

As you can see there is an unequal distribution of natural capital across London. This means that there will be lots of green spaces in some areas and far fewer green spaces in others.

Read the paragraphs below from a university study which explain this green space inequality:

"**Unequal distribution of green space**

Access and proximity to green space are unequally distributed across the population. The most affluent 20% of wards in England have five times the amount of green space compared with the most deprived 10% of wards.[2] Furthermore, people who live in the most deprived communities are ten times less likely to live in the greenest areas than people who live in the least deprived communities.[1]

The distribution of green space is also related to levels of urbanisation. Urban life can expose people to stressors including noise, pollution, crowding, fear of crime and limited access to good quality green spaces.[41] Research suggests that those most at risk of poor health are more likely to live in the most deprived environments, which can have a cumulative negative influence on stress levels, self-esteem, weight and physical activity.[16]"

Take another look at the natural capital map maps.london.gov.uk/naturalcapitalreport/index.html and find your borough.

What is the natural capital value for your borough?

Do you wish you had more parks and green spaces in your neighbourhood? Why?

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Task 5

Choose one of the green spaces near you and map out your walking route.

- Go to: www.google.com/maps
- Type the name of the park or green space into the search bar
- Click on the directions button ⬅ and write your home address as the starting point
- Make sure you have chosen "Walking" as your travel mode at the top of your screen.

How long will it take you to walk to the park? Fill in the answer below.

Task 6

Now that you have found directions,go and enjoy exploring!

Now that you have finished this worksheet please SAVE it and send it back to your teacher.

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