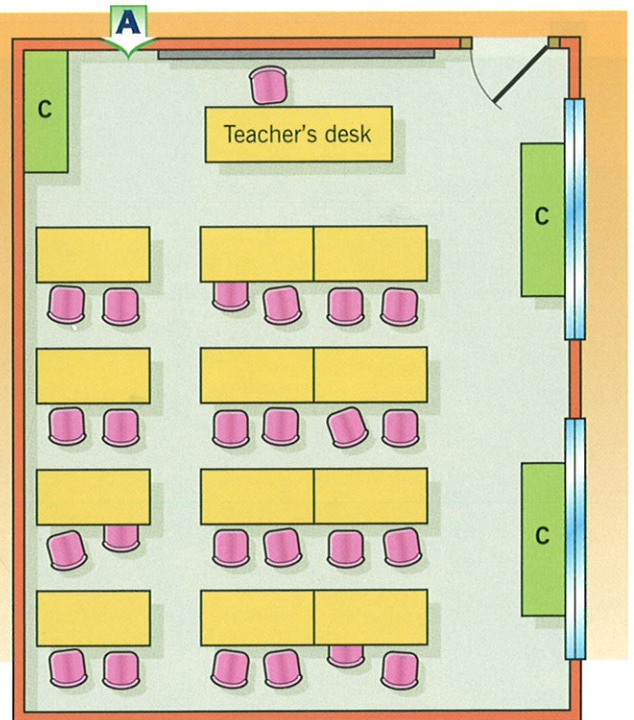


How do we study geography?

Geographers need to know about **places**. They should be able to describe where a place is found (located), why it is there (site) and what it might be like to live or work there. Places can include physical features like rivers, mountains and deserts. Places can also be made by humans, e.g. houses, cities and roads.

Places can vary in **size**. Just as the classroom is a place in a school, so is the school a place in a town, the town is a place in a country, and the country a place in the world.

Diagram A is a plan of a classroom. A classroom is a **place** in a school. If the classroom is neat and tidy (like your bedroom at home!) everything will have its own place. The teacher will have a desk, atlases will be kept on a shelf or in a cupboard, and pens and pencils in a box.



How do we describe what a place looks like?

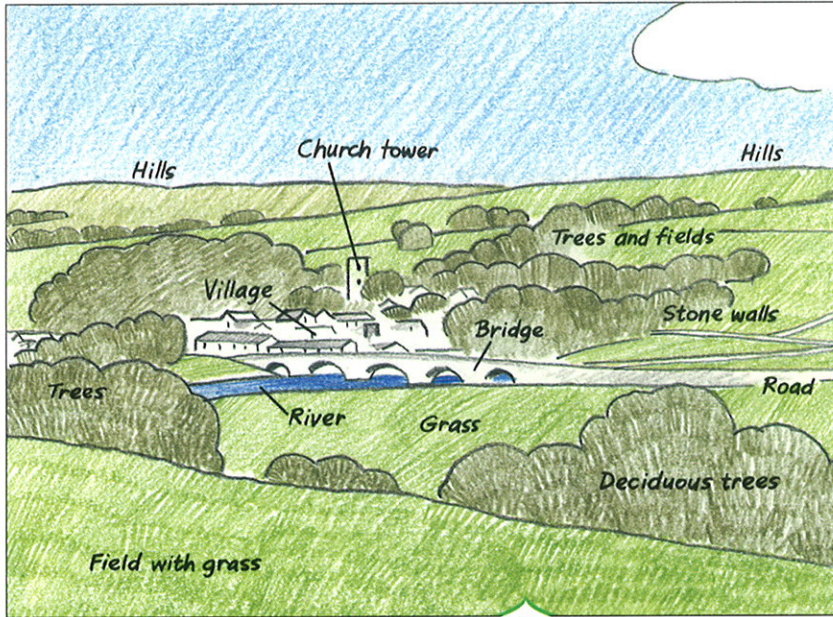
Although no two places in the world are exactly the same, they may have similarities. We have to learn how to describe one place so that we can compare it with a second place. We can show how they are similar to or different from each other.

The best way is to use a photo, possibly from a book or a magazine. When writing a description it is important to pick out **key words**. Key words are important ones to learn and to remember. In the description below photo B, the key words have been written in **bold** type so that they are easier to pick out.

We can also describe a place by drawing a labelled (annotated) fieldsketch. Sketch C on page 13 is drawn from photo B. The labels on the fieldsketch are very similar to the key words in the written description.



In the distance are some low **hills** which are partly covered in **trees**. There is a **village** in the centre of the photo, with a **church** and several **buildings**. The church has a **tower**. A small **road** passes through the village. In front of the village is a **river** which is crossed by a **bridge**. The land around the village consists of **fields** in which **grass** appears to be growing. The fields are separated by **stone walls** and a few **deciduous trees**. The photo was taken on a **sunny** day in **summer** in the **country**.



C



D

Activities

- 1 Photo D was taken in central London. The key words have been missed out of description E and are listed at the end.

Copy out the description in E, putting the key words in the correct places.

- 2 a Make a copy of the tables below.
 b Complete the table for photo B by adding the key words from fieldsketch C.
 c Complete the table for photo D by using the key words listed in description E.

Photo B	
Physical features	Human features

Photo D	
Physical features	Human features

- 3 a Which photo has more physical features than human features? Why?
 b Which photo has more human features than physical features? Why?
- 4 Which of the two places shown in photos B and D would you rather visit or live in? Try to give reasons for your answers.

E
 In the foreground is a _____ with a large _____, several small _____ and a _____. In the trees close to the river there is an old _____. The area is packed with _____ and there is very little _____. In the centre of the photo there are several _____ which look like _____. The photo was taken on a _____ day in a big _____.

bridge castle city offices
 boats sunny tall buildings river
 landing stage buildings open space

- 5 Describe the place where you live, as follows.
 a First, pick out a number of key words.
 b Second, write a description using the key words.
 c Third, draw a simple labelled sketch of one of the main features of the area.

Summary

Geographers study places where people live and those they avoid. Places can be described from photos or by drawing a labelled sketch and underlining key words.