Grade 4 Social Studies

Terms 1, 2 and 3 - notes for 19 topics

IN EVERY TOPIC

- What you will learn and the key words.
- Short, clear notes with worked examples.
- Questions to try and a topic test, with the answers at the back.

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Strand 1.0 Natural and Built Environments | Term 1

1.1 Compass Direction

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- identify the four cardinal points of a compass
- use the four cardinal points to give directions on a map

KEY WORDS

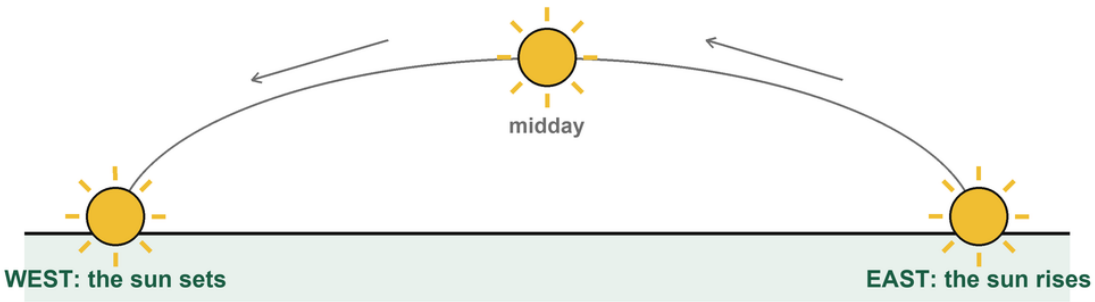
compass, direction, north, south, east, west, sunrise, sunset, map.

1. Where the sun rises and sets

The sun and direction

Every day, the sun rises (comes up) in the east and sets (goes down) in the west. This never changes, so we can use it to find direction.

Stand facing the rising sun in the morning: east is in front of you, west is behind you, and if your right hand points south, your left hand points north.



The sun crosses the sky from east to west every day.

The sun rises in the east and sets in the west

2. The four cardinal points

The compass rose

The four cardinal points are North (N), South (S), East (E) and West (W). They are always arranged the same way on a compass rose: North at the top, South at the bottom, East on the right, West on the left.

A simple way to remember the order going clockwise from the top: Never Eat Soggy Weetabix (North, East, South, West).

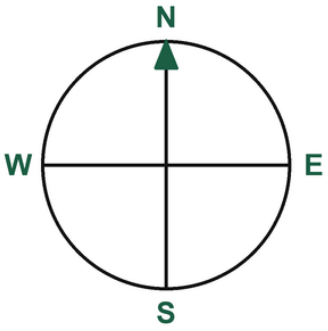
3. Making a compass rose

Practical: drawing a compass rose

Materials: manila paper, chalk; whole class, then pairs.

Draw a large circle on manila paper. Mark N at the top, S at the bottom, E on the right, W on the left. Draw a line joining N-S and another joining E-W, so the two lines cross in the middle.

Now place the compass rose on a drawing of the school compound. If the gate is drawn above the classroom on the page, the gate is to the north of the classroom.



N at the top, S at the bottom,
E on the right, W on the left.

Join N to S and E to W:
the lines cross in the middle.

A compass rose

4. Finding directions in the school compound

Practical: finding directions outside

Materials: chalk to mark a compass on the ground; whole class, then pairs.

Go outside as a class. Find east by facing the rising sun (or ask which way the sun rose that morning). Mark N, S, E, W on the ground with chalk.

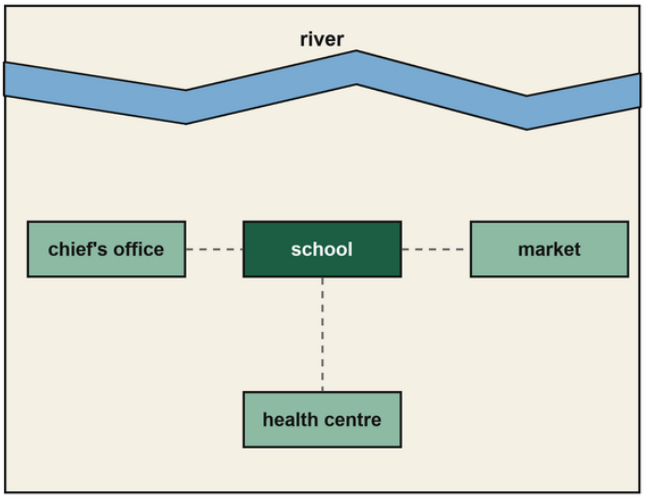
Stand in the middle and point to real places: the gate, the football field, the kitchen, the toilets. Say the direction of each one out loud, for example, "The gate is to the north."

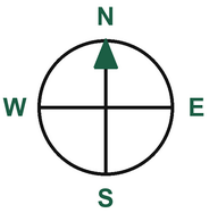
5. Reading directions on a simple map

Reading a map with a compass rose

A simple map of a village: the school is in the middle. The market is drawn to the right of the school (east). The river is drawn above the school (north). The health centre is drawn below the school (south). The chief's office is drawn to the left of the school (west).

To answer "Where is the market from the school?", find the school first, then look at where the market is drawn compared to it, then check the compass rose.





The market is
EAST of the school.

The river is
NORTH of the school.

A simple village map with a compass rose

6. Why directions matter in everyday life

Directions in everyday life

People use the four cardinal points every day: a farmer plants crops on the side of a field that gets the morning sun (facing east); a pilot or ship's captain uses direction to travel safely; a person lost in a forest can use the sunrise to find their way home.

In Nakuru County, for example, a person travelling from Nakuru town to Naivasha travels roughly south, while a person travelling to Eldoret from Nakuru town travels roughly north. (Swap in real journeys from your own county here.)

TRY THESE

1. In which direction does the sun rise?
2. In which direction does the sun set?
3. Name the four cardinal points.
4. On a compass rose, which direction is at the top?
5. Draw a compass rose and label all four points.
6. If the school kitchen is drawn to the right of the classroom on a map, in which direction is it?
7. Stand facing north. Point to your east. What is your right hand pointing to?
8. If the school gate is to the north of your classroom, and you walk from the classroom to the gate, which direction did you walk?
9. In which direction is the market from the school?
10. In which direction is the river from the school?
11. Give one real job or activity where knowing directions is important.
12. Why is it useful to know that the sun always rises in the east?

TOPIC TEST

T1. If you face west, which direction is on your right hand?

T2. If North is at the top and East is on the right, which two directions are opposite each other?

T3. Why is it useful for everyone to agree that North is always at the top of a map?

T4. If you walk from your classroom towards the east and then turn around and walk back, which direction are you now walking?

T5. If you walked from the health centre to the river, which direction would you be walking?

T6. Name one direction-related word you now know that you did not know before this week, and explain what it means.

Strand 1.0 Natural and Built Environments | Term 1

1.2 Location and size of the County

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- identify sub-counties in the county
- locate the county in relation to neighbouring counties
- estimate the size of the county in relation to neighbouring counties
- acknowledge the location and size of the county

KEY WORDS

county, sub-county, neighbouring, border, map, size, location.

1. What a county is, and naming our own county

Counties in Kenya

Kenya is divided into 47 counties. A county is an area of land with its own county government, led by a governor, that looks after roads, health centres, water and other local services for the people living there.

Model example: Nakuru County is one of Kenya's 47 counties, in the Rift Valley region. (Tell learners the name of their own real county here, and use it for the rest of this sub-strand.)

2. Sub-counties within our county

Sub-counties

Each county is divided into smaller parts called sub-counties, which help the county government reach every area more easily. Nakuru County, for example, has sub-counties including Nakuru Town East, Nakuru Town West, Naivasha, Gilgil, Molo, Njoro, Rongai, Subukia, Kuresoi North and Kuresoi South. (Use your own county's real sub-counties here.)

The school itself sits within one of these sub-counties, and every learner's home is in one too.

3. Our county's neighbours

Neighbouring counties

A county that touches another county along a shared line is called a neighbouring county. Nakuru County, for example, is bordered by Baringo and Laikipia to the north, Kiambu and Nyandarua to the east, Kajiado and Narok to the south, and Bomet, Kericho and Uasin Gishu to the west. (Use your own county's real neighbours here.)

Knowing your county's neighbours helps you understand where your county fits within Kenya as a whole.

4. Comparing the size of our county with neighbouring counties

Estimating size on a map

On a map, a county that covers more space (a bigger shape) is larger in real life too, as long as the map is drawn to the same scale everywhere. You can estimate size by comparing shapes with your eyes, or by measuring across each county with a piece of string and comparing the lengths.

Model example: Nakuru County is one of the larger counties in Kenya, covering more land than a smaller neighbouring county like Kericho. (Compare your own real county with a real neighbour, using an actual map.)

5. Why the size and location of our county matter

Why location and size matter

Knowing a county's size and location helps its government plan services fairly: a large county may need more roads and health centres spread across it; a county's location near a lake, a forest or a city affects the jobs and activities people can do there.

Nakuru County's location, for example, includes Lake Nakuru and rich farmland, which shapes the jobs many people there do, such as farming and tourism. (Explain what your own county's real location gives it.)

TRY THESE

1. How many counties does Kenya have?
2. Who leads a county government?
3. What is a sub-county?
4. Name one sub-county in your own county.
5. What do we call a county that shares a border with your own county?
6. Name one county that borders your own county.
7. How can you tell, from a map, that one county is bigger than another?
8. Name a tool you could use to measure and compare county sizes on a map.
9. Give one reason why a county's size matters for planning services.
10. Give one reason why a county's location matters.

TOPIC TEST

T1. Why do you think Kenya is divided into 47 counties instead of being run as one single area?

T2. If your county has more sub-counties than a smaller neighbouring county, what might that tell you about its size?

T3. Name two counties that border each other and are also both far from the ocean.

T4. If a county has a very irregular (uneven) shape, why might just measuring across it in one direction not tell you its true size?

T5. Name one way your own county's size or location has affected your own life or your family's life.

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1.3 Physical features in the County

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- identify the main physical features in the county
- state the importance of the main physical features in the county
- illustrate the main physical features in the county

KEY WORDS

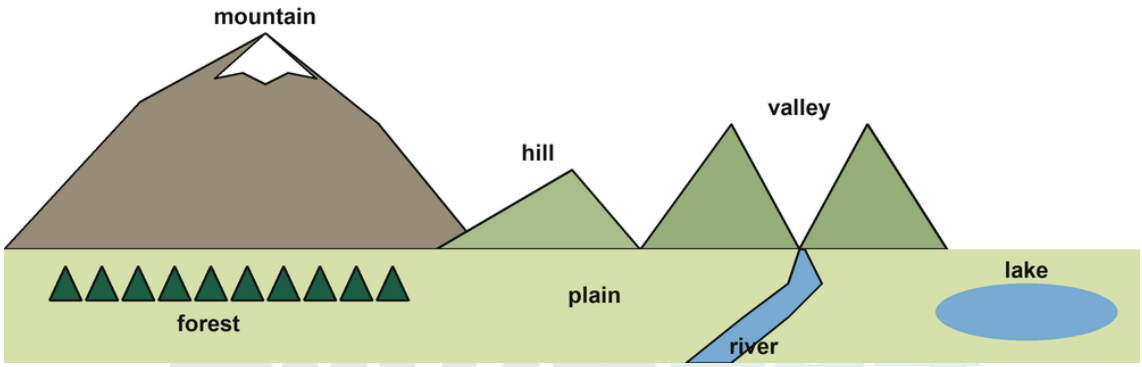
physical feature, lake, hill, mountain, valley, river, forest, plain.

1. What physical features are

Physical features

A physical feature is a natural part of the land, made by nature and not by people. Kinds of physical features include lakes, rivers, hills, mountains, valleys, forests and plains.

A road, a building or a bridge is NOT a physical feature, because people built it - that is called a built feature instead.



Physical features

2. Physical features in our own county

Physical features of Nakuru County

Nakuru County has several well-known physical features: Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Lake Elmenteita, the Menengai Crater (an extinct volcano), the Mau Forest, and the Rift Valley escarpment. (Name your own county's real physical features here.)

A crater is a large bowl-shaped hollow at the top of a volcano.

3. Why physical features are important

Uses of physical features

Physical features are important in many ways: a lake gives fish and water, and attracts tourists; a forest gives wood, clean air and rain; a hill or mountain can attract tourists and hikers; fertile valleys are good for farming.

Lake Nakuru National Park, for example, attracts many tourists who come to see flamingos and other wildlife, which brings money and jobs to the area. (Give a real example from your own county.)