



# Take Two (UNESCO) Islands

Lesson Plan 2: Isle of Wight Biosphere Reserve

# Learning aims

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- To reflect on why the Isle of Wight has been designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve
- To understand more about the Island's natural environment (geology, biology, weather)
- To explore the impact of people on the Island through history into the present
- To reflect on how the Isle of Wight can develop as a world biosphere in the future

# Discovering the Island – Isle of Wight

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- Class discussion: - What we already know (15 minutes)
- Group activities – 4 groups rotating between 4 x 10-minute activities, creating a PowerPoint presentation about the Island (use your exercise book to make research notes)
  - Its Geology
  - Its Biodiversity
  - Its Weather
  - Its People

# Discovering the Island – What we already know

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- ***15 minutes***
- Class discussion:
  - What do we know about the Isle of Wight?
  - [AONB Map](#)
    - Have you visited any of these?
    - Where is Gosport in relation to the Island?
  - Why do we think it might be a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve? (including recap from Lesson 1)
    - Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; Land – Coast.- Sea
    - Recent Island – connected to mainland 10,000 years ago and separated over the last 10,000 years
    - Places of settlement and protected landscapes – Island life



# Discovering the Island – Group activities

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- Group activities – 4 groups rotating between 4 x 10-minute activities, creating a PowerPoint presentation about the Island (use your exercise book to make research notes):
  - Group 1: Geology – Biodiversity – Weather – People
  - Group 2: Biodiversity – Weather – People – Geology
  - Group 3: Weather – People – Geology – Biodiversity
  - Group 4: People – Geology – Biodiversity – Weather

# Discovering the Island - its geology



**Simplified Geological Map of the Isle of Wight**  
(modified and partially redrawn after *Bristow* in *Forbes* (1856) with partially updated stratigraphical terms, *Ian West & Tonya West* (c) 2008)



# Discovering the Island - Geology

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# Discovering the Island - Geology

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Study the samples of geology from the Island provided:

- Chalk - find the chalk on the geology map and locate the Needles and Freshwater Bay. Which photo relates?
- Greensand/ sandstone - find greensand/ sandstone on the geology map and locate Compton Bay. Which photo relates?
- Clay/ muds - find the Wealden clay/ muds on the geology map and locate Compton Bay. Which photo relates?
- Solent river pebbles - find the Solent and its beaches on the geology map and locate Totland Bay. Which photo relates?
- Add your photos to the PowerPoint presentation and describe the geology (colour, texture, imagined feel etc.)



# Discovering the Island – its geology

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Sandstone - Compton Bay

Muds - Compton Bay



Chalk- Freshwater Bay

Pebbles- Totland Bay





# Discovering the Island – Biodiversity

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Answer these questions in your group PowerPoint presentation about the Island's biodiversity, searching online for information (add images if you wish)

- Name 3 animals, insects or plants which make their home on the Isle of Wight and are rare elsewhere on the British Isles, and write something about them
- Why do you think the Island might have animals, insects and plants which are rarely found elsewhere?
- 125 million years ago during the Cretaceous Period, the land that now forms the Isle of Wight was located at a latitude where North Africa is today. It was a world of sub-tropical ponds, rivers and swamps. What evidence survives for the animals and plants that lived in this very distant time?

# Discovering the Island - Weather

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Imagine - you are the photographer in Wind; the walker in Sun, the yachtsman on the boat, the cloudgazer on the bench. How would you describe your experience? Use images found online to illustrate

- [Wind](#)
- [Sun - HoMe](#)
- [Rain](#)
- [Clouds](#)

# Discovering the Island – People

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- Find out how many people now live on the Isle of Wight and how many tourists it gets each year (online). Add it to your PowerPoint
- Explore the [Isle of Wight Before 1066, 1700-1900, Science Innovation Island](#) and [Global Island Explorers](#) and choose one object story from each Explorer. Download the object image and add to your PowerPoint, add a label which says what the object is, how old it is, and why you chose it