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English Heritage Catalogue 1993

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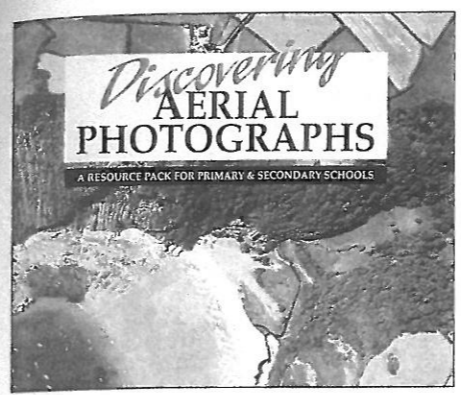
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Reviews



Discovering Aerial Photographs: A Resource Pack for Primary and Secondary Schools
Geonex, 1992
Available from: Geonex UK Ltd, 92-94 Church Road, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 3TD
£29.95 + £2.95 post and packing

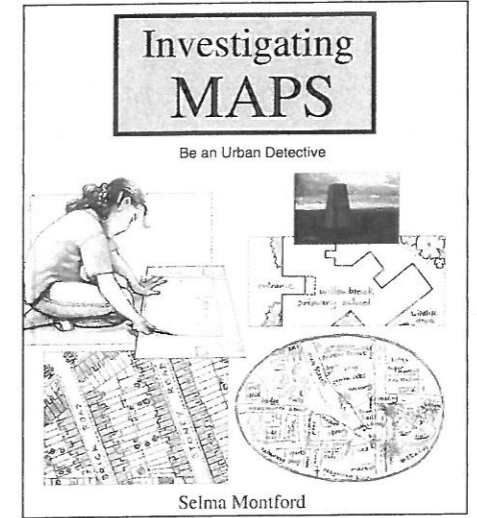
This pack contains eight laminated aerial photographs of widely differing places. On my first look through the photographs, I was delighted to find two landscapes that I know well: Rochester and Caerphilly. Both are the sites of important castles, and the views from several hundred feet above the ground show up some crucial relationships. In the case of Rochester, the twin medieval structures of the castle and cathedral built close together, emphasise mutual power. At Caerphilly, the geometric nature of the castle and its extensive water defences indicate defence in depth. Both photographs show a lot more with further study: they demonstrate how the landscape has developed since the castles were built. They show that the present geography of these places is closely connected with many periods of history.

I soon found that each of the photographs contained the past as well as the present. The Leicestershire landscape around Market Bosworth has features that are medieval: the town plan, the moat of its castle, and the fishponds, and also sites from the period of the Industrial Revolution such as canals and a disused railway. The photograph shows how the landscape influenced the siting of these features. The urban views of the Isle of Dogs, and Earls Court in London are equally as useful historically, in that they give all the information needed to work out how the settlements developed, and the changes that have taken place recently. The Bradford suburbs also show the diversity of human activity in one small area. In complete contrast there are two aerial views of Newquay in Cornwall which show perfectly how the shape of the land has controlled human activities.

The teacher's guide has some excellent activities for developing the skills of understanding, analysing and

interpreting the photographs. It includes overlays to make searching the landscapes easier, especially with the two magnifying glasses which are supplied. Using the pack will help teachers and children develop the skills needed to use the aerial photographs of their own area more effectively. The pack will also help make those important links between the present shape of the landscape and how it was used in the past.

Tim Copeland
Head, Centre for Heritage Education
Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education



Investigating Maps
Selma Montford
Young Library, 1993
ISBN 1-85429-029-0
£6.50

Investigating maps is one of Young Library's 'Be an Urban Detective' series. It provides a good introduction to the world of maps, beginning with the basic questions of what a map actually is - often a difficult idea to convey to young children! Concepts such as scale, direction, diagrammatic representation and urban development are all presented in a clear and visual way, using a variety of different maps to illustrate them. Activities are suggested throughout the book, starting with the familiar idea of drawing a map of 'your own bedroom' and broadening out into suggestions for rather mapping activities in the reader's locality. Ways of using maps to look for clues about the past, for example in street names of old boundaries, are also given. There is a useful section on the origins of Ordnance Survey maps, as well as an introduction to how maps are made. Other recently published titles in their series include 'Investigating Shopping' and 'Investigating Transport'. An important feature of all these titles is the 'Be Streetwise' introduction, which gives sensible safety guidelines for young people exploring the urban

environment. In all, a useful addition to the class or school library for Key Stage 2 pupils.

Jennie Fordham
Regional Education Officer
South East and London
English Heritage



Street Search
A Neighbourhood Discovery Pack for Schools and Families
Civic Trust in the North West, 1993
£10 plus £1.35 postage and packing
Available from: Civic Trust in the North West, Environmental Institute, Greaves School, Bolton Road, Swinton, Manchester M27 2UX.

This attractive new pack, produced by the Civic Trust in the North West, is the second in a series related to the urban environment and the National Curriculum, following their earlier Canal Search. It is aimed at teachers, pupils in Years 5-10 and their parents, encouraging active learning about the local environment wherever they live and work. There are photocopiable worksheets divided between indoor and outdoor activities, covering homes, shops, gardens, places of worship and sites of local interest, including listed buildings and conservation areas. The worksheets will stimulate discussion of a wide range of issues such as planning, improvement schemes, changes in building materials and in the use of buildings. There are separate booklets on how to use the activities, on National Curriculum links, a bibliography and directory of useful organisations. My only reservation is that the pack, consisting of loose leaflets within a folder could be a recipe for disaster in a busy school where parts could easily wander.

It is particularly good to see that the pack encourages parents to become actively involved in working through the activities with their children to investigate their local environment, an idea which deserves a wide take-up by Governors and mums and dads everywhere. It could also end up doubling the national statistic on family arguments!

Ken Glen
Education Service Manager, English Heritage