

What if Mathematics was a place?

Investigation Brief

Imagine that mathematics is a place with geographical features and maybe even a climate.

Create a map or model that demonstrates what you understand about mathematics as a whole and how its parts are connected as if it were an actual place.

This is called creating a metaphor – using one thing to stand for another to show how they are alike.

Resources

- drawing resources like paper, coloured pencils or felts, or
- digital drawing programme, or
- modeling materials like clay, plasticine or a building set.

Prompts and suggestions

You may want to create a brainstorm page where you record all the vocabulary you have about mathematics. Use colours to link words that are connected and go together – maybe division and fractions or odd and even numbers or primes and factors.

If mathematics was a place do you imagine it would be:

- very large?
- very small?
- Somewhere in

How will you represent the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication,

How are the different areas of mathematics linked in your world: number, statistics, geometry, measurement, algebra?

After your map is complete, write a description of your 'mathematics place' and describe what the different features represent.

Links

Below are two maps created by other people. These might help you get started again if you're stuck or inspire you to get more creative with your own work. Larger copies with explanations can be downloaded from nzmaths.com.

Maths as a Solar System



The Map of Maths as Islands

