Keep Scotland Beautiful

Gaelic Place Name Activity - Teachers Guidance

We are inviting young people to explore how the Gaelic language is woven into the names of places around us and to use the words they discover as inspiration for getting creative with place names. The names of places are often inspired by nature, capturing the essence of rivers, hills, forests, and wildlife, allowing us to reimagine and bring our landscape to life in a fresh and imaginative way.

Activity brief

1. Explore the Gaelic place names near you using the maps provided.
2. Use the word list on each map to discover how these names are connected to nature.
3. Think of your own Gaelic name for a fictional place - an island, rock, river, or mountain - using the maps and glossary for inspiration.
4. Write your place name on the activity sheet or a blank piece of paper.
5. Draw a picture of your imagined place - be as imaginative and creative as you can! Feel free to include Gaelic place names that represent the landscape.

Resources

Resources to help you can be found here:

- **Maps** of Gaelic place names for your Local Authority area:
  https://www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/gaidhlig/farpais-ainmean-aite-gaidhlig/

- **Glossary** of useful Gaelic words with English translations:
  https://www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/media/mdhinesi/briathrachan-glossary.pdf

- **Activity Sheet:**
  Gaelic: https://www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/media/wa2ej20b/gaelic-place-name-activity.pdf
  English: https://www.keepscotlandbeautiful.org/media/zkldllk1/english-gaelic-place-name-activity.pdf

- LearnGaelic Dictionary for correct pronunciation: https://learngaelic.scot/dictionary/