

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN BE A DEVELOPER? A Planning Exercise Using Google Earth

Introduction for Teachers

This is a planning exercise that will involve students in considering the different possible land uses in a new development in the Manvers area of the Dearne Valley, South Yorkshire. Using Google Earth they will produce a plan of this Waterfront area at Manvers that takes into account the location of different land uses to reduce possible conflicts to a minimum.

Using a simple drag-and-drop system students will be able to move each land use into their favoured location and rotate, enlarge or reduce it in size. Once complete students will be able to compare their plan with the one produced by the actual developers and decide whether they did better than the developers or not! The drag-and-drop system will work smoothly as long as attention is paid to the guidance provided.

It is possible to use this exercise for a whole class using just the Interactive Whiteboard but it is likely to be much more successful in a computer suite with one machine for every student. This will allow the student individually to produce a plan of the Waterfront area that they are happy with.

The following worksheets are available for use but you may prefer to produce your own support material and resources.

Worksheet 1 ~ Sorting Different Land Uses in a Development Plan.

Worksheet 2 ~ Comparing Different Development Plans - Is Mine Better?

A suggested sequence of activities in this exercise could be:

- To start students will locate the area of Manvers on Google Earth and specifically the linked exercise that identifies the borders of the Waterfront development and above it on the screen a box including symbols representing different land uses.
- Using Worksheet 1 students will identify the 14 different land uses shown in the box and complete a short written task linked to classifying the land uses and commenting on

their importance. Thought will be given to which land uses could go together quite comfortably and which would be likely to lead to conflict.

- Each student begins the drag-and-drop exercise placing the different symbols within the Waterfront border and sizing and orientating each till the whole plan is finished and the student content.
- Once complete each student can compare the finished plan with the one produced by the actual developer. Using the slider control allows this to be done quite easily. Using Worksheet 2 each student will list the main similarities and differences between the student's plan and the developer's plan. Each student will then be asked to decide which of the two plans is better and write a paragraph explaining the decision.
- Finally each student will be asked to design and produce a poster advertising their own Waterfront development and its main attractions. These could be printed out for a class display.