



**RAFFLES INSTITUTION
OPEN HOUSE ACTIVITY**

A GEOGRAPHER'S PLACE

Name: _____ ()

Class: _____

Date: _____

THINK LIKE A GEOGRAPHER!

Studying geography in RI is more than just memorising facts, such as names of countries, and geographical terms – in order to understand and apply the concepts and skills taught, it requires you to engage and interact with your environment. Geography is an exciting and dynamic subject that exists anywhere and everywhere! Did you know that you can even study the geography of your home?

One common way of studying current events through a geographical lens is through analysing, interpreting and, sometimes, even creating maps. Today, we will be exploring how you can be a map-maker, and create geographical knowledge of a unique and special location – your own home!



Mapping My Home

Suggested Time: 40 min

Print a few copies of this, and distribute them to your family members, so you can do this activity together!



From memory, draw out a map of your house in the space below. Challenge yourself – don't discuss this with your family members, or try and peek outside: instead, work from what you can remember. © Be as detailed and clear as you can – you can draw it in any way you like, and feel free to use colour pencils, markers, stickers and symbols to enhance your map. You should take about 15-20min to do this.

Finished? Great! 😊 Now, let's take a look at what you and your family members have drawn:

First, let's compare your map to the one that your **family members** drew! Are your maps very similar? Or very different? In what ways are they similar/different? Jot down some points below:

If you didn't work on them together, chances are your maps look very different. But why are they not similar, if you live in the same house? 🤔

Next, let's compare your map with your **actual house**. Pick up the maps and walk around your house. How accurate is your map? Did you manage to get the layout correct? What about proportions, and locations of things? Again, jot down some key points below:

Again, there is a very strong chance that your map does not actually match how your house really looks like! 🤔

WHY did you get this outcome???

This all has to do with the geographical concept of **place**, which says that physical locations and spaces are also defined by the meaning that they hold to a person. Geographers use concepts like *place* to view the world, to make sense of what is happening around them.

When you go through experiences in a location, this changes the way you view that location, and gives it special meaning. This explains why you and your family members' maps look different, and also why your maps do not accurately represent your house – you all spend time in different rooms doing different things, and various parts of your house may be more or less important to you. So in your maps, you would have focused on different parts of the house and maybe even drawn them bigger or smaller, depending on their importance to you.

However, this does not mean that your map is 'wrong' or 'useless' – instead it represents who you are and your personal experiences! This provides a unique geographical perspective of the special space that you call 'home', helping geographers to understand how you interact with the environment around you, and how you feel about the place. This kind of information is useful for geographers when studying places in different cities, countries and even the world.

Congratulations! You have just completed your first task as a budding geographer. 😊