

Hyde Park Junior School – Geography

Topic: Dartmoor

Year: 3

Strand: Physical Geography

Enquiry Question: How was Dartmoor formed?

Overview

By the end of the unit, children will understand how Dartmoor was formed a long time ago and how its physical features have changed over time. We will also link to History and discuss how people have used Dartmoor over the years. The children will also develop their geographical skills by taking part in map work. They will be using the 8 cardinal points of the compass and understand how these help with directions. Additionally, the children will be using 2 figure co-ordinates to locate features of Dartmoor on the map.



Key Vocabulary

granite – a type of rock formed from volcanos.
tor – a hill or rocky peak (made of granite on Dartmoor).
settlement – a place where people start a community.
formation – the process of something being made/formed.
volcano – a mountain or hill having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapour, and gas can erupt from the earth's crust.
peat – decayed organic matter.
moor – an area of uncultivated land.
climate – weather conditions over a long period.
weather – state of the atmosphere e.g. windy, sunny, rainy, etc.
national park – a protected area of countryside.
erosion – when something is broken down over time.



What Should I Already Know?

I understand that a map can show details of an area. I understand key features in my local area from observations.

Dartmoor is a large area of countryside near to our locality.

Important Information about the Dartmoor.



Dartmoor is a national park in Devon, a county in England. Dartmoor National Park is 368 square miles or 954 square kilometres. It's about 20 miles from North to South and 20 miles from East to West. That means it's roughly the same size as London, or about the same size as 20,000 football pitches. National Parks were created by The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. Dartmoor National Park is created from land owned by a range of people including lots of farmers and The Duchy of Cornwall (Prince Charles). Some of the land, including Haytor, belongs to Dartmoor National Park Authority. The highest point on Dartmoor is High Willhays Tor.

It's 621 metres or 2,039 feet above sea level. The lowest point on Dartmoor is Doghole Bridge. It's 30 metres or 98 feet above sea level. 65% of Dartmoor is made of granite – rock which was created around 295 million years ago. There are over 160 tors on Dartmoor. Tors are where the granite rock that is underneath Dartmoor. There are three visitor centres at Dartmoor, one at Princetown, one at Haytor and one at Postbridge. 34,500 people live on Dartmoor. Today about 90% of the land on Dartmoor is used for farming. Farmers keep 50,000 cows, sheep and ponies on Dartmoor.

Geographical Skills and Enquiry

Enquiry questions:

Here are some questions that you could look in to.

- What are the physical features of Dartmoor?
- How has Dartmoor changed over time?
- What animals live on Dartmoor?
- Which plants can be found on Dartmoor?
- Do any people live in Dartmoor?

Skills:

- Can use local maps to locate areas.
- Can make observations about physical features of Dartmoor.
- Use a range of information to find out about places and environments and to make simple inferences.
- Draw conclusions from evidence collected.
- Recognise and give some simple explanations in changes to physical features of a place/location.
- Use correct geographical vocabulary when describing the Dartmoor and in their explanations

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Enquiry Question: How has Dartmoor changed over time?

Question 1:	Start of unit:	End of unit:
1. How was Dartmoor formed?		
2. How do you think Dartmoor has changed over time?		
3. Name two animals which could be found on Dartmoor.		
4. What do we mean by National Park ?		
5. Give two ways in which Dartmoor is used by humans.		
6. What is granite and why is it on Dartmoor?		