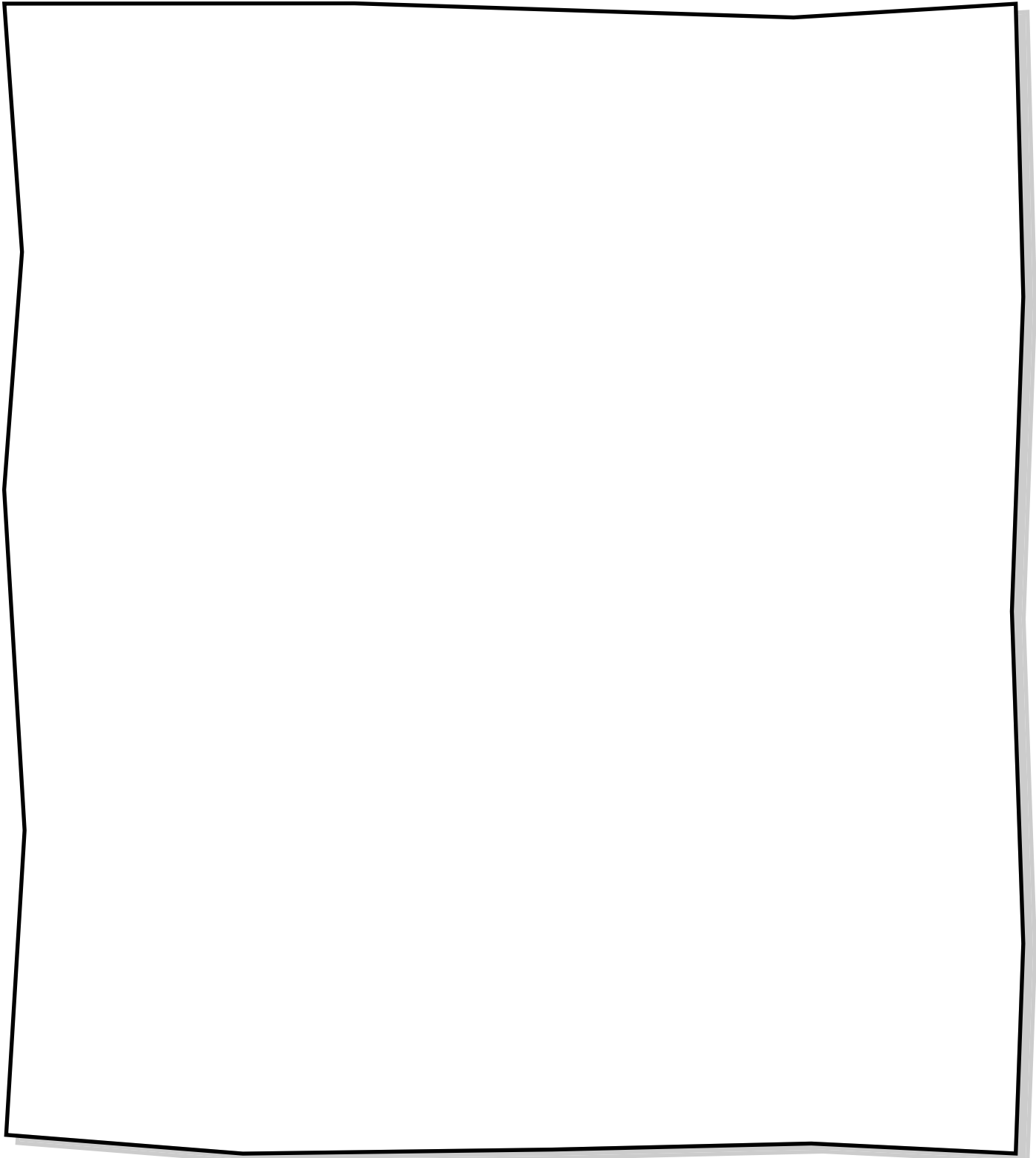


BEATING THE BOUNDS

Draw the perimeter of your schoolgrounds, then sketch on some of the important features around the edges. These features could be objects, places or even views that you especially like.



How to use this worksheet

Aimed at:

- Pupils: Key Stage 1 & 2
- Teachers
- School Grounds Practitioners

Use as part of:

- Grounds development project - investigating what you already have on your site.
- Celebrations and festivals - Rogation Days.
- Curriculum linked work e.g. RE: investigating religious festivals.
- LTL Toolkit - Stage 3, Surveying your site.

Curriculum links:

- RE: investigating religious festivals.
- Geography: collecting and recording evidence, drawing plans and maps.
- Art and Design: recording from first hand observation.

Purpose of the task:

- For pupils to identify features of personal and whole school importance around their grounds and describe why they are important.
- To record these through sketches, photographs and by adding them to a map of the site.

Equipment needed:

- Clipboard, worksheets, pencils etc., map of the grounds or paper on which to draw a map.

Introductory work:

- Investigate Rogation, which is the festival during which the Beating the Bounds ceremony takes place.
- Rogation is a Christian festival that takes place three days immediately before the Feast of the Ascension.
- The word Rogation comes from the Latin 'rogare' which means 'to ask'. The idea is to ask for blessings on newly sown crops or fishing boats - depending on where you are in the country! Parishioners also ask for blessings for the community they live in.

- As part of Rogation celebrations, the people of the parish proceed around their fields so that everyone knows where the boundaries lie and can celebrate the spaces that belong to, and are important for, the parish. Traditionally, they would also look for damage to the boundaries.
- Important and well-loved features on the parish boundaries are beaten with willow wands and passages from the Gospels are read.
- Use Beating the Bounds as a key phrase in an internet search engine - many parishes report their activities on their websites. Try www.findonvillage.com/0187_beating_the_bounds.htm as a start.
- Find out whether Beating the Bounds is celebrated in your parish - there may be photographs in the local studies library or in churches. Talk to people who have taken part in this ceremony.

What to do:

- Take a walk around the boundaries of the school grounds taking notes and discussing important features or places on the extremities of the site.
- Pupils choose the features that they feel are most important to them and sketch them onto the sheet overleaf - pupils could do a number of 'thumbnail' sketches if there are several places of interest.
- Add these special places to maps of the grounds.
- Find long sticks with which to 'beat' the bounds. Traditionally, willow sticks with their bark stripped bare were used.
- Take a procession of pupils around the grounds and use the sticks to 'beat' the features that have been identified. Also look out for areas of the boundary fencing or hedges that are in need of repair; make a note of them to pass on to the site manager.

Follow up:

- Use the maps and drawings as part of the survey work for your school grounds development process.
- Design new features to help mark out the boundaries of your site. Perhaps invite an artist to work with pupils to create sculptures, signposts, gateways or special seats.