



GRAFFITI – Investigation

1 Make a group of 3 – 4 students and go out in an area of your neighbourhood with your group.

Make a map of your neighbourhood.

Keep it realistic. Make your investigation just a few streets. If you try to do too much, you won't be able to do a thorough investigation.

2 Take a copy of your neighbourhood map each and walk around your chosen area.

Don't forget to make a mark on your map for each of the items of graffiti you find.

It's a good idea to number the items of graffiti on your sheet, and on your map, so that back in class you can create a single perfect copy showing all the items and where they are.

3 On a separate sheet of paper make notes on the graffiti you see on your walk.

Make a list which shows what kind of things you find.

Try to answer the questions here on your sheet as you go around the neighbourhood.

Is the graffiti artistic (are there pictures, are there different colours)

Are there specific symbols (What kind of symbols are they? Football, hateful symbols)

Are there any messages? (Are there protest slogans? Are their hateful messages? Are there any positive messages)

Are their 'tags'? (Do the tags make any sense? Are they names? Do you think they are nicknames?)

Make notes also about the type of place where the graffiti is. Is it on the wall of a block of flats, for example. Is it on a lamppost?

Make a note of anything else you think is interesting, important about the graffiti.

4 When you've walked around your chosen area, and are back in class, analyse your information together.

Using a new fresh map and sheet of paper, create a route with arrows showing where you walked, and along the way, use icons or images with numbers on the map, with descriptions with the same numbers on a separate sheet.

5 Now present your findings to the class. As a group, talk through your map and key with descriptions.

Give some comments and opinions from your group about what you found. (Was any of the graffiti 'real art'? Did you think any of it was given permission to be done?)

6 Have a class discussion about the whole experience. You might vote as a class on the question 'Is Graffiti good or bad?' and count up the votes.

7 Find a partner class in another country doing the same investigation.

Ask your teacher to help you find a partner class.

There are plenty of schools in the TrashedWorld website who might be willing to partner with you.

8 Prepare all the maps from your class along with the keys of descriptions to send to your partner/s.

Include the vote results, if you voted.

This can be by post, or digitally. It is easier to send by email, or to upload to a website, and send the link, but believe us, receiving your work in the mail is also a great experience for a partner class too!

9 Don't forget to do an introduction to who you are, your class name, grade, as well as your school name. You might also include photos of your class.

Follow-up – have a lesson comparing any investigations you receive from other classes.