Teacher Resource Sheet

Our school from above

What this lesson is for

Children learn to read a simple map of their school from above and name roads, green places and buildings. The lesson moves from looking and learning the words to pinning on the map, so every child can say what sits around the school.

In the curriculum (NCCA Primary SEE, 2025)

Stage 2, My locality: People and places. Identify, explore and describe significant natural and built features in the local environment.

Before the lesson

- Print one activity sheet for each child; it comes with the lesson.

How the lesson runs

1. Look and wonder	4 min	4. Write it in your copy	7 min
2. Talk and learn	6 min	5. What we found	5 min
3. Find and pin	13 min		
Then the activity sheet, at the children's desks			about 10 min

Teaching tips

- Read the questions aloud and invite two or three answers from the class before continuing.
- When a child comes to the board, first ask the class which colour from the key to use.
- Walk around the room during the copybook activity and look at a few drawings.
- In the summary step, read each key word aloud and point to its picture.

What to watch for

- A child places a pin on the wrong type of feature. Ask the class what colour it should be and allow another child to move the pin using Select.
- Children mix up the road with the school grounds. Remind them of the colour shown in the key for roads.
- Some children struggle to finish the sentence. Allow them to say it aloud to the teacher instead of writing.
- **A common wrong idea:** “Map colours are the real colours of those places.” Point to the key. Yellow marks school grounds on the map, not paint on the yard. Green means grass or trees here, even when real grass looks different.

Help and stretch

- Support: If a child finds writing difficult, let them draw only and say the sentence out loud.
- Extension: Encourage children to identify and name additional features visible on the map.
- Support: During the pinning activity, provide extra verbal guidance on choosing the correct colour.

Lesson 1

If you are short of time

Cut pinning turns to four or five children. Keep the copybook sentence and end with What we found so the class still says what the map shows.

Background for you

A street map shows a place as if you were looking down from the sky. Colours and simple shapes stand for real things. Roads often appear as grey lines, grass and trees as green patches, and buildings as blocks. The yellow area on the school map is usually the school grounds. The map is not a photograph. It is a simplified picture that helps children pick out kinds of places they already know.

Children at this age do not need scale or compass directions yet. They need to match what they see on the board to the words road, green place and building, and to place a pin in the right kind. If a feature is unclear on the map, say so plainly and move on. We do not need every detail of the neighbourhood to answer the lesson question.

Key words

map	a picture of a place from above
road	a way for cars and people to travel
green place	grass, trees or a park on the map
building	a place with walls and a roof

Children will ask

Why is the school yellow on the map? Yellow is the map colour for the school grounds in the key. It helps us find them quickly. It is not the real colour of the yard.

Can we see our houses? You may see other buildings near the school. The map may not show every house, and we do not name people's homes in class.

Activity sheet answers

1. Colour Colour the picture. Match the key.
Yard: yellow. Tree: green. Road: grey. House: red.

2. Match Draw a line from each picture to its word.
A road with a car.: road. A tree on grass.: green place. A house with a door and windows.: building. Ireland: the shape of the land, with no names: map.

3. Finish Finish the sentence.
A good answer names something visible on the school map, such as a road, a green place, a building or the school. Example: On our map I can find a road and a green place.