

The identity of the North East of England has been shaped by the rocks beneath our feet

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Geology and Geography students within England learn about the earth's processes and human processes, however it is not always easy for them to see the link between them and to their own lives. The changes to the specification within A-level Geography has seen an emphasis on how processes are linked to their own lives and the local area.

I am fortunate to teach both Geography and Geology and I want my students who study both subjects to appreciate the links within the subjects. I also want them to appreciate the local geology and see how it has shaped the North East of England. I have therefore, created a series of lessons to help them to explore the local geology and place identity of the North East of England. To help them to develop an understanding of how the local geology influences place identity.

I have used an enquiry based approach which uses the KWL chart and a concept map for students to demonstrate their understanding. These lessons are structured using the learning cycle.

The lessons are differentiated through the use of cheat sheets, different levels of hand-outs and grouping of students.

The learning objectives are:-

1. Describe the Geology of the North East of England.
2. Explain at least one process which has formed local geology.
3. Define place identity.
4. Discuss the North East of England's identity.
5. Discuss how the local Geology has influenced the North East of England's identity.

The North East of England's geology mainly consists of coal and limestone. There is rich industrial heritage of the North East which is based around coal mining. Therefore, coal mining has had a great impact on the identity of the North East of England. There are also a number of different SSSIs which is due to the Magnesium limestone in the area, which has helped to shape the identity of the region. There are a number of areas of outstanding natural beauty due to the local geology and this has helped to create a positive identity for the North East of England.