GROUP ACTIVITY

RESEARCHING CORNISH PLACE NAMES

Recommended for

KS2-3 (History, Geography)

Learning objectives

- Use historical enquiry skills to find and research Cornish place names.
- Create a map with the place names found, labelled with both the English and Cornish names.

Time to complete

60 minutes

LEARNING IDEAS

- Divide your class into groups and allocate a Cornish place name to each group.
- Ask each group to research the meaning and history of the name using the suggested sources.
- Have each group record variations of the place name and add photos where appropriate.
- Bring the class back together to present their findings, discuss which sources are most useful.

Some techniques for finding information on Cornish place names:

Tithe maps

Tithe maps were produced to provide information about land ownership and types of cultivation. They are often the earliest maps of parishes.

For more information: https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/community-and-living/records-archives-and-cornish-studies/

Maps

Ordnance Survey began their detailed mapping in the 19th Century. For older maps, try the National Library of Scotland.

National Library of Scotland's map catalogue: https://maps.nls.uk/

Cornish Place Names

This interactive map features details on any Cornish place name.

Henwyn Tyller, Place Names: https://www.cornishdictionary.org.uk/map

Library

Try searching for authors such as Oliver Padel or Craig Weatherhill.

Search library catalogues: https://capitadiscovery.co.uk/cornwall/home

Old Cornwall Societies (OCS)

OCS preserves Cornwall's traditions, culture, language, and dialect. They have information on place names available on their website or in person.

Old Cornwall Society website: http://www.oldcornwall.net/

Heritage Gateway

Type your place name into the search bar and see what information different record offices have. This includes the Cornwall Record Office.
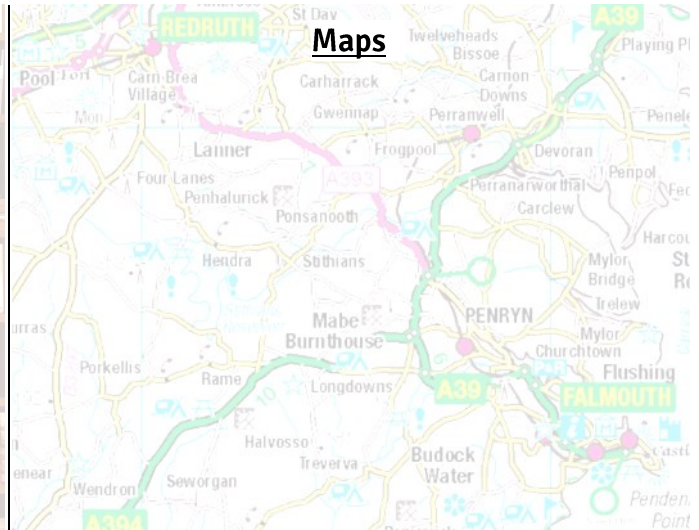
Search Heritage Gateway: http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/
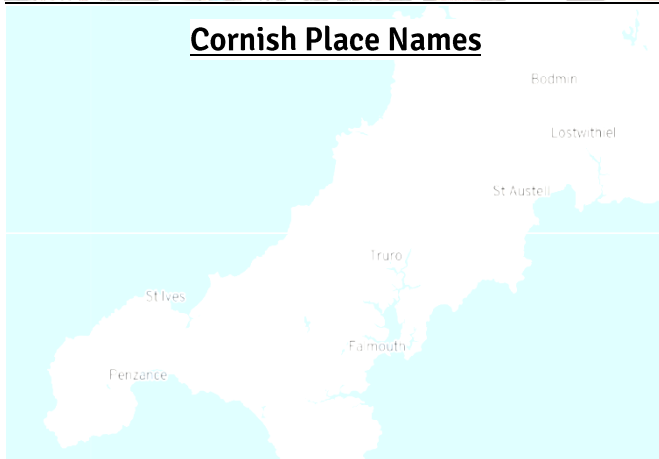
Exploring Cornish place names

Using the suggested sources and any others you
know of, see what you can find out about your place name. How useful is
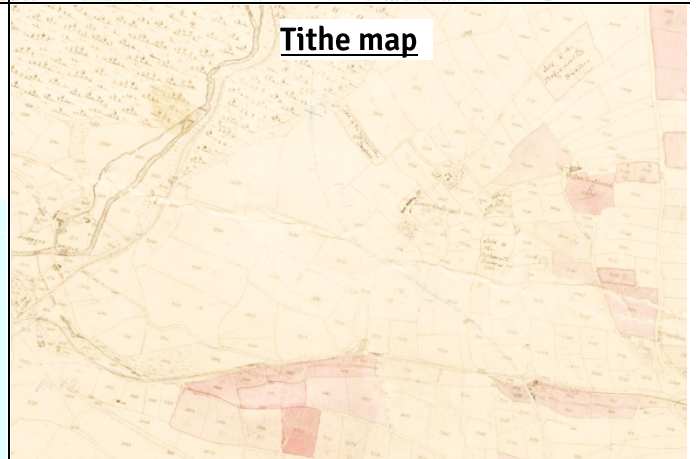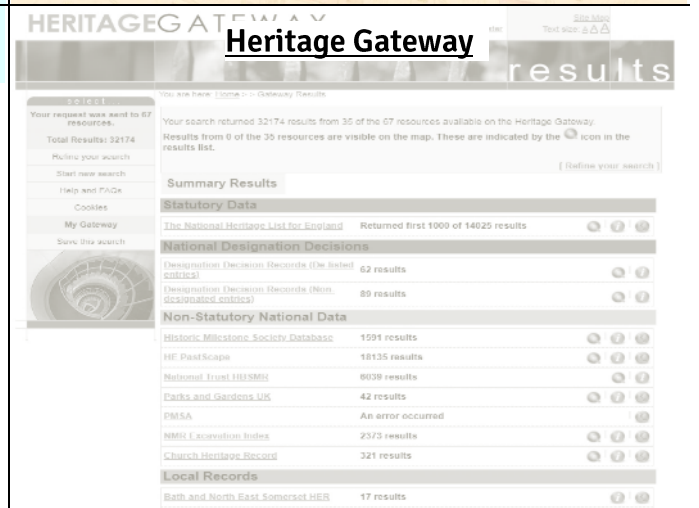each source for giving you the information that you want?

Library

Maps

Cornish Place Names

Tithe map

Old Cornwall Society

Heritage Gateway