

Spokes Maps – Uses in Schools

[Spokes maps](#) have many uses other than the obvious ones! This article shows some of the ways the maps can be used in schools as class materials.

Spokes maps are available at [discounted prices](#) for orders of 6 or more copies. Having multiple copies enables group or individual work on maps rather than just having one or two copies.

However when we publish new map editions we normally donate leftover copies of the previous edition (which may be numbered in 10s or 100s) for educational purposes to local schools or other educational establishments.

USE OF THE MAPS IN SCHOOL

Outdoor activities – the obvious use!

Maths – A Midlothian teacher told us... *I plan to use them with my National 3 Maths Lifeskills classes for work such as measuring distances and applying/using a scale.*

Local history – A map owner told us... *I belong to a local history group, writing a history of the local shale industry. We need to include a modern outline map of the area – by far the best such map we have seen is the Spokes West Lothian map.*

Local geography – A teacher told us... *I would like to do a class project using the maps to plan some local cycle routes near our school. Indeed, by liaising with local councillors and grant-giving bodies such as Sustrans Scotland it might even be that some schemes could be implemented.*

Art/design – There is huge scope for discussing issues such as the colours and fonts used, what additional features could be added to the map – or removed – and so on, to maximise its usefulness for different types of user, whilst ensuring that it remains easily readable (not an easy balance to achieve!) Another interesting project would be to compare two editions of the map, for students to identify and discuss changes both in the cycle facilities shown but also in the layout and design.

Quizzes – Donald Tainsh of [West Lothian Bike Library](#) devised this [map-based quiz](#) for his grandchildren – but the idea could be extended to schools, for example as an end-of-term activity.

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