

Winter Word Cauldron (1)

Use the space below, or a separate piece of paper, to write down as many wintry words as you can think of. Then, cut them up and collect them together in a cauldron or a bobble hat!

You might want to think about colours, weather, clothes, holidays, food, games, animals, nature and wildlife.

Winter Word Cauldron (2)

Take the words out one by one and see if you can make any surprising and interesting combinations.

You might want to do this in pairs, small groups, or as a whole class.

Discuss:

- Which are your favourite words and why?
- Do any of the words bring back memories?
- Have you learned any new words?
- If you were describing winter to someone who had never seen or experienced it, would these words paint a picture for them?
- Do the words help you to start making stories with your imagination?

Dear Diary

In the book 'Elen's Island', Elen goes to an island on her own to stay with someone she doesn't know very well. How would you feel if you were going to an island for the first time under the same circumstances?

Write a short diary entry for the night before you set off.

You might want to think about:

- What you are expecting the island to be like?
- Do you feel nervous/excited/scared/worried/happy/sad?
- What are you looking forward to?
- What are you leaving behind?
- How much do you already know about the island and how much of it is a mystery?

Dear Diary,

Name:

Map Making

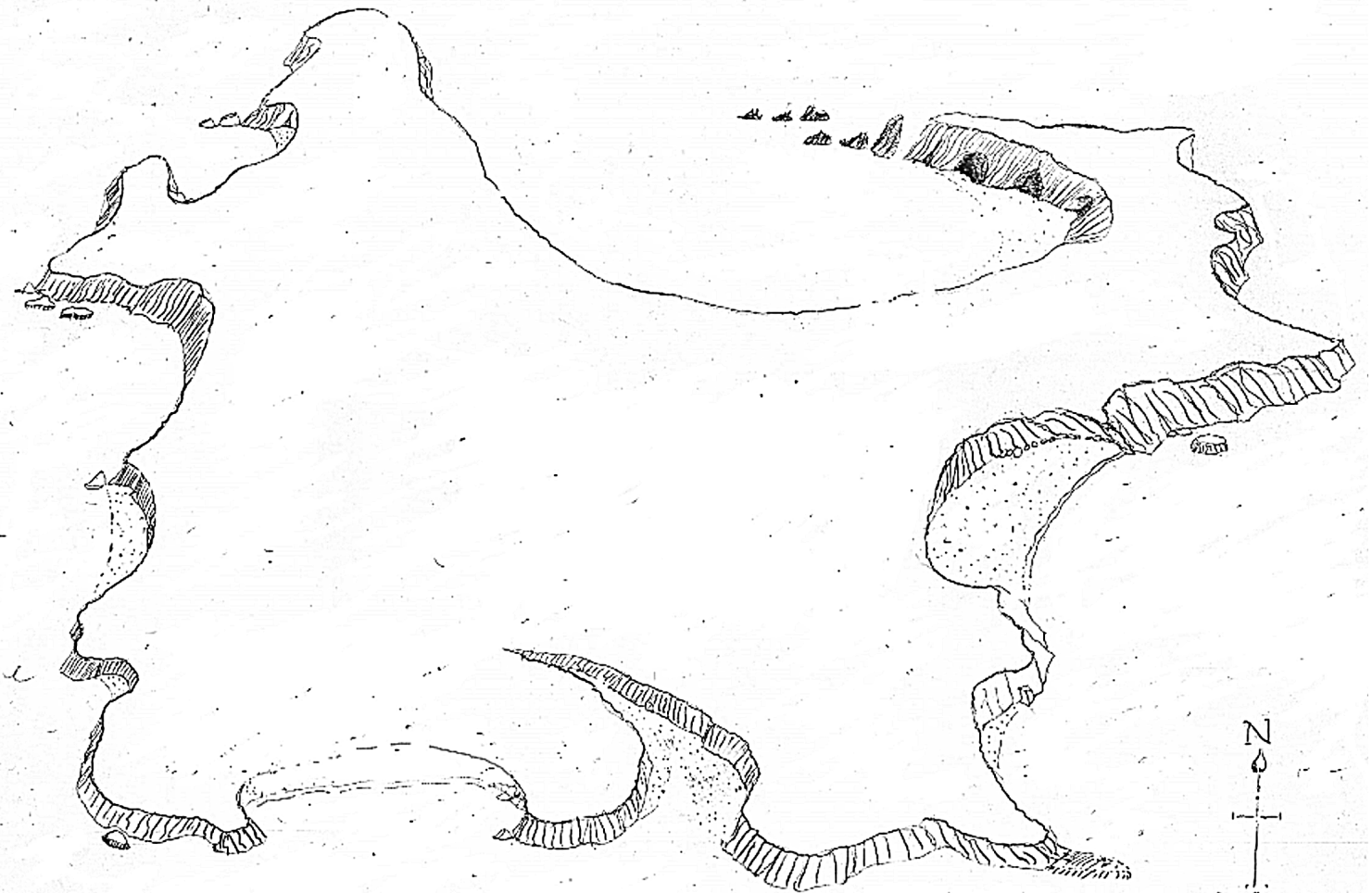
Create a map of a wintry island.

Include lots of interesting place names. You might want to use some of the words from your wintry cauldron!

Remember, when you are creating a world for your story, it will help if you have a good choice of locations for your character to explore.

Tip – Have a look at real maps. How are they set out? Imagine you are flying over the island. What do you see when you look down?

Map Making



Name:

Sensational Senses

Using the senses always helps to bring a story to life.

Choose a spot on your map and imagine you are there. Make a list of all the things you would be experiencing in that place using the senses.

What can you see, hear, taste, touch, and smell?

Tip – It might help to close your eyes so you can really imagine that you are on the island.

Don't forget to think about what is up high and down low. Small things and large things. What is close to you and what is far away?

The time of day you are imagining will make the answers different – you might want to make two lists, one for day and one for night.

Sensational Senses

What I can see

What I can hear

What I can taste

What I can touch

What I can smell

Creating Clues

In 'Elen's Island', Elen finds a clue in the form of an acrostic poem with each of the first letters spelling out the word GOLD.

Growing life and magic true
Of beauteous lights of fire
Loves treasures then will come to you
Deliver heart's desire.

Can you create an acrostic clue like this?

Tip - Choose your treasure carefully to suit the length of your clue! If you choose the word DIAMONDS for your acrostic it will be much longer than if you choose the word COINS, for example.

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Creating Clues

Name:

Start your story

Start writing your own story. Use the wintry words, the map you have created, the senses you have listed, the emotions and information from your diary entry and your clue to help you.

You already have lots of ideas!

Below are some story starters you might want to use, or you might want to make up your own.

- The island looms up out of the sea ahead of me and...
- I have been told not to go to that side of the island because it is dangerous, but...
- 'Yes!' I have worked out what the clue means and...

Tip - Try to make the first line of your story as interesting as possible. You need it to grab your reader's attention to make them want to read on!

You might also want to think of an interesting title for your story.

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Name:

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Name:

Extra tasks

Research islands off the coast of Wales and the UK.

How many can you find? What do they have in common and what differences do they have?

Research island wildlife and nature. Are there any birds, animals or plants which are new to you? Why do you think they have chosen to make the islands their home?

Make a list of how things are different for people living on small islands in comparison to living on the mainland. You might want to find out how they get water? Electricity? Food supplies? What kind of toilets they have? What jobs do the island people do?

Find out about clean seas projects. Make a fact sheet about why it is important to keep our seas and beaches clean.