Visiting the Countryside and the City



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When you visit a place for the first time, it can feel different from what you expect.

Things might look, sound, or feel unfamiliar.

This can happen in both the countryside and the city.

Sometimes a place surprises us in wonderful ways; perhaps it's quieter than we imagined, or busier, or more colourful.

Each new place has its own character waiting to be discovered.

Talk with an adult: What makes a place feel new to you?

The Countryside Is Not Empty

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The countryside is not just open fields and quiet spaces. Places like the Cotswolds are full of life and activity.

These areas have charming villages with winding streets, narrow roads that curve between hedgerows, and beautiful old stone houses built centuries ago.

People live, work, and travel there every day, just as they do in towns and cities.

The countryside has shops, schools, farms, and businesses.

Tractors share the roads with cars, and local buses connect villages.

It's a living, working landscape with its own rhythm and community.



Talk with an adult: What clues show that this countryside is busy and lived in?

A Countryside That Moves

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In some countryside areas, animals are part of everyday life in unexpected ways.



In places like North Yorkshire, farmers sometimes move sheep between fields along public roads.

Visitors driving through might suddenly need to stop and wait whilst a whole flock crosses slowly in front of them, guided by a farmer and perhaps a sheepdog.

This is a normal part of rural life, but it can feel quite unusual if you're not used to it.

The sheep take their time, and there's no rushing them. It's a reminder that the countryside works to its own schedule, shaped by the needs of farming and the natural world.

Talk with an adult: Is it usual or unusual for you to see farmers moving their flock along public roads?

Cities Are Not Just Grey

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Sheffield's Green Spaces

Sheffield is one of the greenest cities in England, with more trees per person than any other European city. It has over 250 parks and green spaces.



Rivers and Woodland

The city has rivers running through it and areas of ancient woodland. You can walk from the city centre into beautiful natural areas in minutes.

Talk with an adult: Why might this surprise someone visiting Sheffield city who expects only buildings and roads?

Nature Inside a City



Some cities have wild animals living nearby, which can be quite unexpected. In parts of London, people may see foxes wandering through streets at night, searching for food.

Birds of prey, such as kestrels and even peregrine falcons, can be spotted flying above parks, hunting for smaller birds and mice.

London also has large green spaces like Hyde Park, which contains lakes, meadow areas, and hundreds of trees.

These areas feel worlds away from the busy streets nearby.

Cities can feel very different from street to street—one moment you're surrounded by traffic and buildings, the next you're walking beside water with ducks and swans.

Talk with an adult: Why might visitors not expect to find wild animals in a busy city?

Different Sounds in Different Places

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New places can sound very different from what you're used to.
The sounds around you help shape how a place feels.

Yorkshire Dales Sounds

In the Yorkshire Dales, you might hear:

- Wind rushing across open hillsides
- Sheep calling to each other
- Birds singing in the quiet
- The sound of your own footsteps on gravel paths



Manchester City Sounds

In a busy city like Manchester, you might hear:

- Traffic moving along streets
- People talking and laughing
- Trains arriving at stations
- Music from shops and cafés



Talk with an adult: Which sounds do you think you would notice first in each place?

Getting Around Feels Different

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Moving around new places can feel unfamiliar, and the way people travel varies greatly between countryside and city.

In rural areas like Cornwall, places may be far apart. Roads are often narrow, winding between high hedgerows, and there might be few buses or trains.

People often need cars to get around, and journeys can take longer than expected because of the twisting routes.



In cities like Birmingham, places are close together. You can walk to
many locations, and there are regular buses, trams, and trains.

However, streets can feel crowded, and you need to pay attention to traffic and other people.



Talk with an adult: How might these differences change the way people plan their day or travel to places?

Finding Quiet in Busy Places

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Even busy cities can have quiet, peaceful spaces tucked away.
You might not expect to find them, but they're there if you look.



In York, a historic city that attracts many visitors, there are still places to find calm. Small gardens hide behind old buildings, their gates easy to miss.

Quiet streets run alongside the ancient city walls, away from the main shopping areas. Libraries offer silent reading rooms, and hidden courtyards provide spots to sit and rest.

These quiet spaces give people a chance to pause, think, or simply enjoy a moment of peace.

They're important places in busy environments, offering balance and a place to breathe.

Quiet City Spaces

- Hidden gardens
- Streets near old walls
- Libraries and reading rooms
- Peaceful courtyards

Talk with an adult: Why might finding quiet feel important when you're visiting a new place?

Noticing New Details

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When you visit a new place, small details help you understand where you are and what makes that place special. You might not notice these things at home, but in an unfamiliar setting, they stand out.

Street Names and Signs

Street names can tell stories about a place's history. Signs showing directions help you find your way and feel more confident.

Landmarks and Buildings

Towers, bridges, statues, or unusual buildings become markers that help you remember where you've been and navigate back.

Local Features

Different areas have their own character—red telephone boxes, stone walls, particular types of architecture, or local shops with unique signs.







Talk with an adult: Which details would help you remember a place you've visited?

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You've explored how both the countryside and the city can surprise us in different ways. Each type of place has its own character, sounds, sights, and rhythms. What feels new to one person might feel familiar to another—it all depends on your own experiences.

Think About the countryside and the city

From the places you have seen in this book, which one feels most new or interesting to you?











Or Imagine Visiting

Is there a place you would like to visit one day?
What draws you to it?

Talk About It

Share your thoughts with an adult.
You could say:

'This place feels new because.....'

'I would like to visit ..... because .....'

