YEAR 8 GEOGRAPHY – CYCLE 3 – FIELDWORK

BOX 1: THE STAGES OF A FIELDWORK INVESTIGATION

geographical fieldwork	**collecting data** to **answer key questions** (an enquiry/investigation)
1. write question	**choose** a **key question** to **investigate** (to prove or disprove)
2. hypothesis	**predict** the **conclusion** of your **investigation**
3. risk assessment	list the **dangers** of the **fieldwork** and **how** these will be **reduced**
4. data collection	**methodology → collect information** to answer your key question
5. data presentation	**present data** using **maps** and **graphs →** make it **easy** to **understand**
6. analysis	discuss the **trends** in the data → **suggest reasons** for the data
7. conclusion	What did you **find out**? What is the **answer** to the **key question**?
8. evaluation	• What were the **limitations** of your investigation (problems)? • How could your enquiry be **improved**? • How **accurate** is the data? → Are there **errors**? • How **reliable** is the data? → Can the results be **reproduced**? • **Validity**? →Are the conclusions **reliable** and **representative**?

BOX 2: TYPES OF DATA

human	information about **people** e.g. cities and tourism
physical	information about **natural landscapes** e.g. rivers and coasts
primary	information → collected **first-hand** e.g. tallies and photographs
secondary	information → **someone else collected** → available to others
quantitative	collecting **numerical** data
qualitative	collecting **written** or **visual data** e.g. photographs and interviews
continuous	data that is **measured** → can be any value
discrete	data that is **counted** → can only be certain values

BOX 3: TYPES OF SAMPLING

sampling	collecting a **small selection** of data • e.g. interviewing 10 people **rather than everyone** in the town
sampling size	the **amount** of **data** collected, **more data →** preferable
1. random	**selecting** a person to interview or site to measure, at **random** • **unbiased →** particular people/places **not specifically chosen**
2. systematic	collecting data in an **ordered** and **regular** way • e.g. every five metres or every fifth person
3. stratified	splitting data collection into **groups** • e.g. interviewing **five people** from **each age range**

BOX 4: GEOGRAPHICAL FIELDWORK EQUIPMENT

anemometer	used to measure **wind speed**
pH meter	used to measure **acidity** or **alkalinity**
callipers	used to measure the **dimensions** of small objects such as stones
clinometer	used to measure the **angle** of a **slope**
light meter	used to measure the amount of **light** or **cloud cover**
compass	used to find out a **direction**
flow meter	used to measure the **velocity** of moving water
quadrat	used to measure **species abundance** in a set space
sweep net	used to collect **invertebrates**
rain gauge	used to measure **precipitation** levels
trundle wheel	used to measure **distance**
thermometer	used to measure **temperature**
decibel counter	used to measure **noise** levels

BOX 5: DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES

field sketches	field sketches → **qualitative** data → help us to **remember** the **places** that have been **visited** → 3 steps → 1. write a **title** that will help to locate the sketch, e.g. 'Site One' 2. **draw** an outline of the **main features** of the landscape 3. **annotate** the field sketch to give **more information**
Environmental Quality Assessments	used to **rate** the **environment** of a place → different **categories →** e.g. pollution, noise, graffiti, amount of green space → uses a **scale** from **1 to 5 →** to **rank** from **less good** to **good** • based on **personal judgements →** so data is **subjective**
questionnaires	**asking people questions** linked to your investigation → two types of questions → **open** and **closed →** • **open questions →** asking the person to **give** their **opinion** using **their own words** • **closed questions →** asking the person to **select** their **opinion** from a list of **multiple choice answers**

BOX 6: DATA PRESENTATION TECHNIQUES

line graphs	show how **data changes** over **time** or **space**
divided bar charts	show **grouped data** as **bars →** divided bar charts **split up each bar** to break the information down further
histograms	similar to bar charts → but show **frequencies**
pie charts	show **percentages** as a **circle** divided into **segments**
scatter graphs	show **relationships** between **two sets of data**
proportional symbols	**symbols** added to **maps →** show extra data → the **bigger** the **symbol** the **bigger** the **number**
pictograms	similar to bar charts → but they **use small pictures** or **icons** to show data instead of bars

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