

Baseline Assessments

This term refers to activities that help teachers to determine the existing knowledge of their pupils. Activities also enable misconceptions to be determined and highlight issues that need exploring and terms that the pupils need explaining.

Relevant

Key Stage/s:

For example the photo activity **Images of the UK** highlights any misconceptions pupils have of the UK. Another idea is to use a map, for example of Africa and ask pupils to fill the map with statements and pictures of their images of Africa. This activity usually brings out the misconceptions that all Africans live in mud huts. You can then show them pictures of Africa including tower blocks and people driving cars etc... Using a quiz or **Concept mapping** are other useful tools for exploring pupils baseline knowledge.

All

Baseline assessment is therefore a term used to describe many of the activities outlined in this website. The reason for calling them baseline assessments is that it reminds you that the activities will help you to find out what your pupils already know and bring out any misconceptions in order that you can challenge them. It is useful to record the outcomes of the activities to inform future planning and to be able to refer back to at the end of a topic.