

Key Stage 1 / Key Stage 2 October Assembly

A Giant Leap for Mankind

Year group: Key Stage One / Key Stage Two

Resources:

Suitable music to play as children enter the hall eg : 'You'll never walk alone' ; 'These boots are made for walking' ; 'Walking on sunshine' ; 'Walking in the air' ; 'Walking on the moon' ; 'Walk like an Egyptian'

Cards with words – walking, skipping, hopping, running, jumping

OHT map of Britain; OHT with Neil Armstrong quote

Assembly plan

Aims

To encourage the children to see the benefits of walking
To encourage the children to walk at least some of the way to/from school - especially during School Walking Month.
To encourage the children to see that some people go to great lengths in order to make a difference

Introduction

Leader asks for volunteer to mime an action: Show the child the card 'skipping', child to mime & other children to guess what s/he is doing.
Repeat for 'hopping', 'running', 'jumping' end with 'walking'
Explain to the children that today's assembly is going to be about walking.

Main presentation

There are some people who have carried out very long walks and have become famous for them. Some of you may have heard of Ian Botham. He was a famous cricket player who decided to raise money to help children suffering from Leukaemia.
Ian Botham asked people to sponsor him to walk from John O'Groats (the most northerly point of Great Britain) to Land's End (at the very opposite end of the country) That's a very long way!
(show this on the OHT map)
34 years ago, on 29th June 1969 another man made a walk, it was a very short walk, but it was probably one of the most significant events in history. Lots of the grown ups in school will have memories of this special day, they'll remember the excitement and have memories of watching the event on a black and white television set. Any ideas?
Let me tell you the story:

Three astronauts of the Apollo 11 Space Mission had blasted into space in the command module, Columbia, and had travelled to the moon. *(Ask if any of the children know their names)*

Their names were Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. Collins was to stay behind in Columbia whilst Armstrong and Aldrin took the Lunar Module, called Eagle, to the surface of the moon.

Neil Armstrong came out of the hatch of the lunar module and moved slowly down the ladder. His space suit was very heavy and it was very hot on the moon. At the bottom of the ladder he paused, and then he stepped out onto the surface of the moon. He said, (show OHT) 'That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind'

It was only a single step, but it was the most important part of the whole journey. It was the first time that anyone had walked on the moon.

Armstrong and Aldrin spent over two hours walking on the moon collecting dust and rocks, before they returned to their command module to return to Earth.

That one step was part of a much longer journey, but it was vitally important.

October is a very special month in schools. It is called 'School Walking Month'

We are asking you and your family to walk wherever and whenever you can during the month, especially to and from school if you can. If you live too far away from school to walk the whole way, we are asking that instead of driving you all the way to school, you park further away and then you walk for the rest of the journey. If you could walk only part of the way on your journey it would help, because every time we don't use our cars, we are keeping ourselves healthier and making our world better. The small steps you take could be as important as the steps taken by Neil Armstrong in 1969. Fewer cars outside school will improve the environment and make it safer for people who are walking to school.

Summary

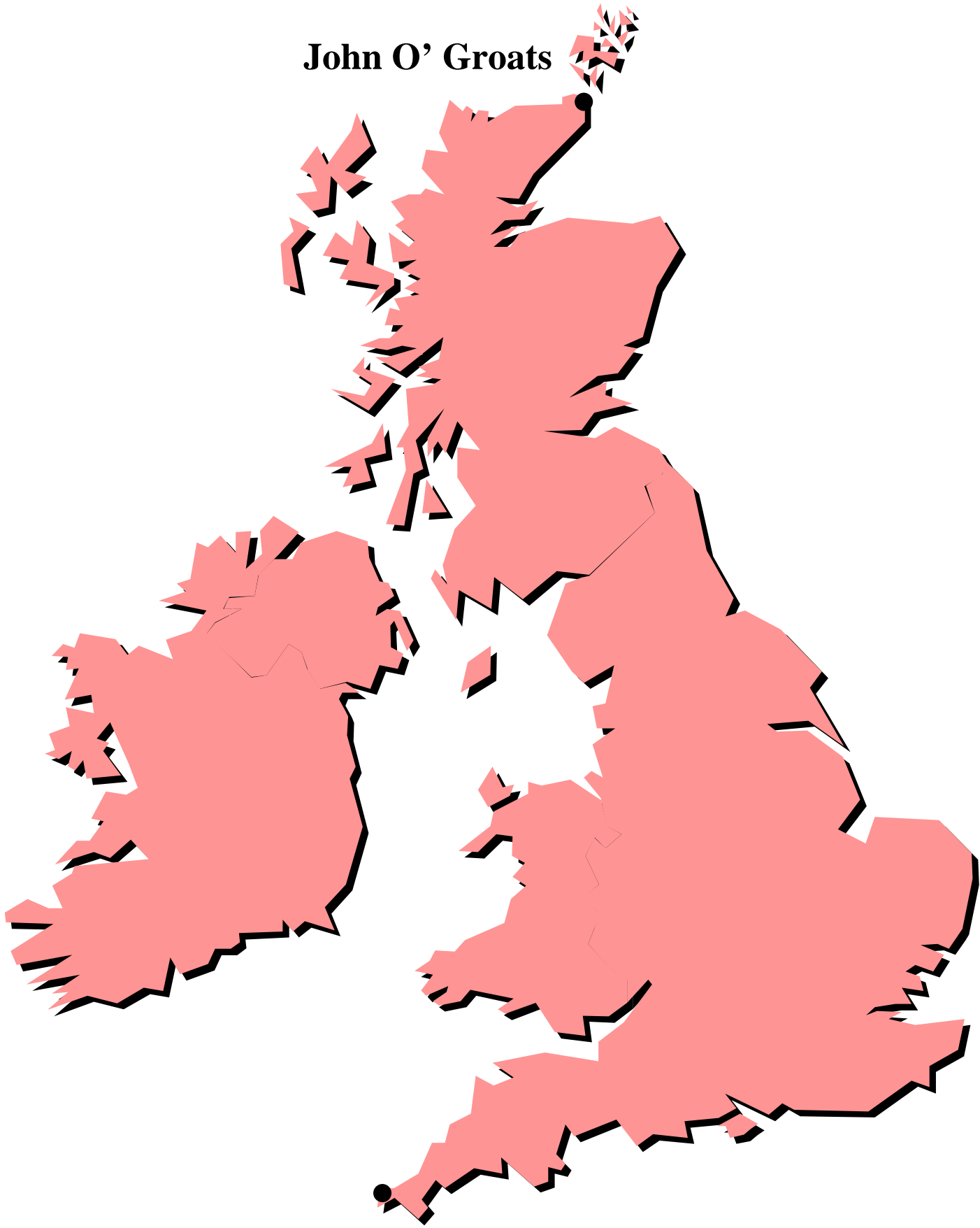
Remember, one small step for a pupil at our school could be a giant leap for mankind if it means that there will be fewer cars on the roads. This would lead to less pollution, and fitter, more active children, who take notice of their surroundings, as they walk whenever possible instead of using the car for short journeys.

Reflection

Let the children think about the fun of travelling today, and about people like Ian Botham who raise money to help others.

Each and every one of us has a part to play in the protection of the world, we need to think carefully about how the way we choose to travel will affect our environment.

John O' Groats



Land's End

'That's one small step for a
man, one giant leap for
mankind''

Neil Armstrong
29th June 1969

