# Lesson 1: Natural and human features

**Content focus:**
This lesson introduces and consolidates the concepts of natural and human features – concepts central to an understanding of geography and the environment.

**Resources:**
- Resource 1 (PPT): A collection of photographs depicting examples of natural (physical) and human environments
- Resource 2: Four sheets of photographs illustrating a range of natural (physical) and human environments
- Access to aerial photographs of the local area on Google Earth.

**Key inquiry questions:**
- What features of places are natural and which is the product of human activity?
- How are natural features formed and shaped?
- How are natural features altered by humans and human features altered by nature?

**Outcomes:**
- A student:
  - describes features of places and classifies them as natural or human
  - identifies ways in which people interact with and care for places.

**Lesson sequence:**
- **Step 1:** The teacher shows students photographs of a variety of both human and natural features (Resource 1 – PPT). Students, with teacher guidance, identify those that are dominated by natural features and those that are the work of people (human).
- **Step 2:** Small groups of students are given one of four photo cards (Resource Sheet 2) and asked to select those that are human features and those that are primarily physical in nature.
- **Step 3:** Each group of students is then asked to make a list of other features (not in the photographs) which could be classified as natural or human.
- **Step 4:** The class could then suggest how some of the natural features were caused – forces such as rivers, ocean waves, ice, earthquakes, wind, floods, volcanoes could be mentioned briefly.
- **Step 5:** If available, read students The First Golden Geography: A Beginners Introduction To Our World. Points to emphasise include: The world is spherical in shape and moves through space; mountainous landscapes; volcanic activity; the work of rivers; oceans and seas; islands; lakes and ponds; cold and hot lands; and deserts.
- **Step 6:** The groups then look at a Google Earth image of the school’s local area on a screen device. They are asked to select places and features which can be classified as mainly natural or human.