

Eyes in the Skies Activity Sheet A

- Discuss how pilots in during WWI needed to take photographs so that the shapes on the ground could be interpreted, and why this was important. Discuss different shapes with the children.
- The teacher should select a number of different sized and shaped objects and put them in a marked-out area (approximately 1.5m x1.5m) on the floor or the ground. Mark points around the room or playground at varying distances (moving from very far away, to slightly closer and then closer still - about 6 points around the items).
- Have the children try to see the items from far away and/or obscured positions at first. Ask them a series of questions about the objects. Discuss the difference in seeing these objects from different levels and angles by asking them to look from a lying or crouching position, from all directions and with some obscuring features in the way, such as swings or bins, and also finally from directly above.
- Use the results of the task to discuss the following:

Scale	how big are the objects? how do we judge this? is this accurate?
Angles	what is the best position from which to see the objects? why is this so?
Distance	how does distance change our view of an object? is this important?

- Relate estimating size, scale and distance to the world today. Why is it important? Examples could be estimating when it is safe to cross the road if there is no marked crossing, or buying items online - a dress ordered for a dance could be a Barbie dress if measurements are misunderstood!
- Ask the children to count the objects.
- Ask them to identify the biggest object and describe its shape and size, and do the same with the smallest object.
- Ask the children to place all the objects in order from largest to smallest and to describe why one might appear bigger or smaller.
- Ask them to identify the third largest object, the second smallest object, etc and then measure them all. If you have a big class, this can be done in small groups with various groups of objects.