Using annotated sketches (1)  Unit 5.1 extension activity

To be a top geographer, you need to know how to draw an annotated sketch. This means adding notes to a sketch to describe or explain its important features. Not only is this an important skill in geography, but it's one that can be used in many other subjects too.

Getting started
1. Look at the sketches below. One is a labelled sketch and one is an annotated sketch. Which is which?

   Sketch 1
   mountains
   some buildings
   trees
   fields
   boulders and clay pyramids

   Sketch 2
   foothills of the Italian Alps
   isolated hamlet. Houses have pitched roofs for heavy snowfall
   some high altitude pasture land
   some high altitude woodland
   soft clay has eroded and resistant boulders are perched on top

For an annotated sketch you don't need a detailed drawing; the most important thing is to have good annotations. This is a useful technique to use on fieldtrips when you don't have time to write long descriptions or draw detailed pictures of your survey area.

Using annotated sketches (2)  Unit 5.1 extension activity

Time for some practice!
2. The fieldwork below was done by a pupil who went on a fieldtrip to Darlington, in north-east England.

   She was describing an area of housing near the centre of the town. She drew a sketch to go with this description, but didn't annotate it. Using the information written below, annotate the sketch to show the main features included in the written description.

   The results of fieldwork in Darlington
   - The area is residential. The houses are over 100 years old.
   - They are terraced.
   - They have no front gardens - there may be an entrance at the back, with a small garden.
   - There are no garages, as the houses are very old. Some cars are parked in the street.
   - There is no open space, or greenery - no grass verges, etc.
   - There don't seem to be many street lights.
   - Most of the houses have the original windows, although some might have been double-glazed.
   - Some have been painted recently.
   - There is no passing traffic, and there are no pedestrians.