4.1 Your place... 20 000 years ago!

**Lesson objective**
To find out what the British Isles was like during the last ice age 20 000 years ago, and why.

**Lesson context**
This lesson follows on from the introduction to glaciers and the reasons for studying them. Students learn how far the ice spread across Europe, during the last ice age. They will consider what the physical environment was like and how it affected people.

**Lesson presentation purpose**
This lesson presentation provides a quick lesson starter and an activity to help students to order the events which occurred around the time of ice age.

**Duration**
Slide 1 — 5 minutes for the photo discussion.
Slide 2 — 10 minutes approximately for one of the map activities.
Slide 3 — 10 minutes approximately for the Sort it out! activity.

**Slide 1 — Activity guidance**
The photos on this slide show how much of Britain and Northern Europe may have looked 20 000 years ago during the last ice age. Students could consider which of these environments they would most like to live in and why; the frozen ice-sheet or the boggy, semi-frozen tundra (alongside the woolly mammoths!). They could list the reasons why it would be difficult for humans to live here; food, water, shelter, climate, fuel etc.

**Slide 2 — Activity guidance**
This map can help students consider what it was like where they live 20 000 years ago – ice sheet or tundra? They could also:
1. Use their atlases to locate other cities in the British Isles and draw a table to show whether they would have been in an area of ice sheet or tundra.
2. Copy the shading and key onto a blank map of Britain and label other cities or areas (including the Lake District for reference later in the chapter).

**Slide 3 — Activity guidance**
4.1 Sort it out!
This activity helps students to describe how the ice age affected the movement of people to and from Britain. Once completing the activity as a class, students could copy it down and answer question 2 from page 63.

**Differentiation opportunities**
4.1 Foundation worksheet — Students interpret information in order to describe what Britain was like during the last ice age.
4.1 Extension worksheet — Students describe the human and physical impacts of the last ice age on Britain and they undertake an internet challenge to find out more about woolly mammoths.
**Homework opportunities**
Want to explore? Question 4 on page 63 asks students to explain what they might take to help them survive in ice age Britain if they travelled back in time. This could link to a research task to find out about polar explorers and what they wear.

Preparation for next lesson: Ask students to find out about a glacier anywhere in the world today. They could find out 5 key facts about its location, the physical environment and how it is changing.

**Assessment opportunities**
4.1 End-of-lesson assessment — this can be assigned to students from the Assessment tab.

**Next lesson**
4.2 Glaciers: what and where?
Lesson objective: to find out which parts of the Earth are covered in ice today, and what glaciers are.