

# Merry Hill Shoppers

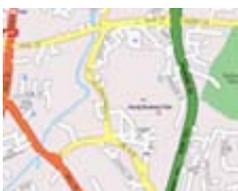
This is a localised resource but visitors do come to Merry Hill from all over the Midlands! The map exercise can be easily adapted to suit your own local shopping centre (to obtain an editable Word version – see below).

The reading comprehension work is ideal for promoting discussion on the crime of theft and attitudes to the Police - plenty of opinions here on my New Deal programmes!



The paired map task provides useful listening and speaking practice. I used the map on Up my Street

<http://www.upmystreet.com/map> and postcode **DY5 1QX**.



You will need one map in colour and one in black and white for each pair of learners (and coloured pens or markers in orange, green and yellow).

Extension work could include searching the internet to discover which shops are located at the centre and further information on other large shopping centres around the country. Numeracy exercises could be added which would involve discovering the most represented shops in centres across the country.

## Main Curriculum References

### Map task (page 2)

- SLlr/L1.2 Listen for and understand explanations, instructions and narratives on different topics in a range of contexts.
- SLlr/L2.2 Listen to, understand and follow lengthy or multi-step instructions and narratives on a range of topics and in a range of contexts.
- SLc/L1.3 Express clearly statements of fact, explanations, instructions, accounts, and descriptions.
- SLc/L2.3 Express clearly statements of fact, explanations, instructions, accounts, descriptions using appropriate structure, style and vocabulary.

### Reading task (pages 3-4)

- Rt/L1.1 (L2.1) Trace and understand the main events of chronological, continuous descriptive, explanatory and persuasive texts.

To obtain an editable Word version of this document please send teaching ideas or any adult basic skills resource that you would like to share to [maggie@skillsworkshop.org](mailto:maggie@skillsworkshop.org)

**THANK YOU**

## Merry Hill Map Task

One of a pair has the black and white map; the other has the coloured map. Do not show each other. The one with the black and white map sits at the table, the other stands behind facing away holding the coloured map.

The aim of the task is for the standing student to give the following instructions to their seated partner in order for them to complete the map correctly.

### Instructions

1. Find the road that runs down the page that starts as Pedmore Road and then changes into Merry Hill. Colour this road in green.
2. At the left hand side of the page is a road called Mill Street that turns into High Street as it reaches the top of the page. Colour this orange.
3. Now explain which roads are coloured yellow and ask your partner to colour these in.
4. If I drove along Mill Street, turned right, and then first left which road would I be on? (The Embankment)
5. If I turned off Pedmore Street into Level Street, down Central Way and took the second right where would I be? (The Information Centre.)

## Merry Hill Shoppers Targeted



Shoppers at the Merry Hill shopping centre are being targeted by thieves, prompting a warning for people to keep a close eye on their belongings. Thieves have struck several times in recent weeks.

Police are advising visitors to make sure their shopping trolleys, pushchairs and handbags are properly protected.

Police have stepped up patrols in the area to provide reassurance to shoppers, while other officers are patrolling the centre in plain clothes in a bid to detect offenders.

People are being urged to follow some simple safety advice to keep their belongings safe.

The guidelines include keeping bags shut and closed at all times, closing purses and putting them away before leaving the till, trying not to overload with bags and coats, avoiding carrying a wallet or purse in a back trouser pocket, keeping cash secure and out of sight, being discreet when using a mobile phone and putting it away after use and not leaving handbags, pushchairs and shopping trolleys unattended.

Sergeant Stuart Birtwisle, from Brierley Hill Police Station, said: "We are urging people to be aware of their surroundings and to keep any valuables safely hidden or locked away. By following simple crime prevention measures, people can help to reduce their risk of becoming a victim of crime."

Adapted from:  
West Midlands Police (2008), '*Purse dipping at Merry Hill*', viewed 8 March 2008,  
<http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/dudleynorth/news.asp?id=8>

## Merry Hill Shoppers Targeted

1. How many times have thieves struck in Merry Hill in recent weeks?
2. Who are being targeted by thieves?
3. What are the Police doing in the area to provide reassurance?
4. List three bits of advice that the Police are giving people.
5. What does discreet mean? Look it up in the dictionary.
6. What is the Sergeant's name from Brierley Hill Police Station?
7. How does he think people can reduce their risk of becoming a victim of crime?
8. What three things are Police advising visitors to the centre to protect?
9. What are the plain clothes officers in the centre trying to do?
10. Which words in this article begin with a capital letter and why?