

# The difficulty of transferring knowledge

When thinking about supporting pupils to build increasingly complex mental models, it is important to understand that pupils are likely to struggle to transfer what has been learnt in one discipline to a new or unfamiliar context. This is particularly relevant to consider when designing your curriculum, as you may want to make use of and bring attention to, the links between different subjects. This can enrich the curriculum and support pupils to build their mental models.

However, because pupils find it hard to transfer knowledge between different subject domains, asking them to apply what they understand of a mathematical concept to a geographical task will need careful thought and planning to ensure they are successful in doing this. So how can you as a teacher support pupils to do this?

Transferring knowledge is a concept explored in Module 6 ECT seminar 2 on 'Supporting pupils to think critically.' If you are engaging with this session after the seminar you may wish to draw on your learning.



Complete this [short activity](#) where you will be asked to read a scenario and explain what you think the teacher could do to support pupils to transfer their knowledge from one discipline to another. This activity won't be graded or scored.

Remember, you aren't formally graded for your submissions, the knowledge checks are here for you to understand what you have learned within this session.