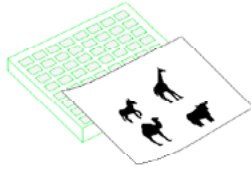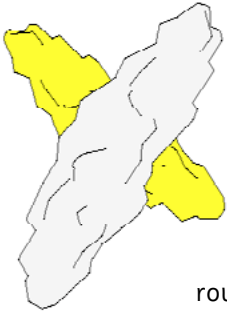# Using IT in... earth and weather
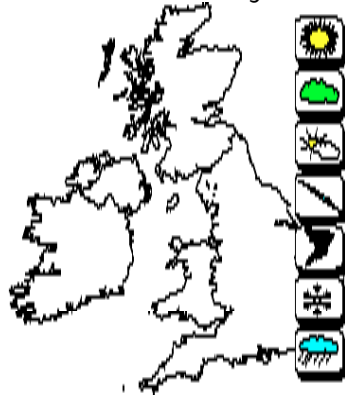
How do we identify rocks?

You can get children to examine a collection of rocks and provide help with describing them. You can use a **word processor** where the important 'describing' words like jagged, lumpy, gritty are available by pressing a **'Clicker' grid**. When the children press on a word, it is typed into the word processor. You can also prime the word processor with questions like: what colour is the rock? Does it have streaks? Is it rough? Is it crumbly? Can you scratch it? Can you crush it with a hammer? Does it mark paper? Does it soak up water? Does it have bits in? Are they like powder or are they grainy?
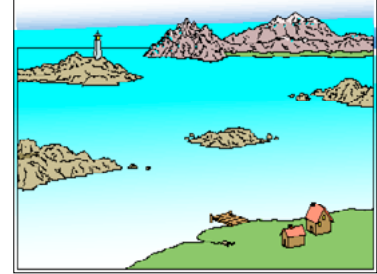
IT: Communication

Measure the weather

There are weather stations with instruments you read daily, that record the weather automatically. Computer sensors can do this too, not as elegantly but acceptably. A **light sensor** records daylight and sunlight, a **rotation sensor** records the wind speed, a pressure sensor records the barometric pressure and a **temperature sensor** provides the temperature. You might collect enough data to ask whether it's cooler when the wind blows or whether it's warmer when it is bright.

IT: Handling information / Communication

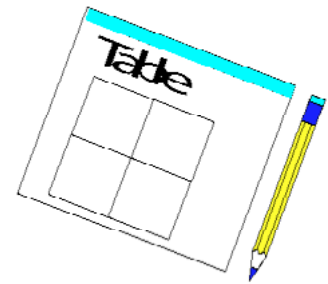## Arrange the steps of the water cycle into order.

You can prepare a sorting exercise using a modern **word processor** program. You type the steps of water cycle in the word processor and put the sentences in the wrong order. The children then re-arrange the steps into order.

IT: Communicating

How are the seasons different?

You can make a four-box table in a **word processor**, one box for each of the four seasons. The children can fill these in with their ideas. Or they can use a **drawing program** to create a poster about the seasons. They might focus on how the seasons affect our lives. As they work they may come to change their ideas - some say it rains more in winter and others will disagree. The computer acts as a neutral area where children can discuss each other's work.

IT: Communication