Away days UK (key stage 3)

What the photo says
This image, taken in 2007 at London’s Waterloo station, Kingston-upon-Thames, is full of movement, energy, possibilities, transience ... It could be used as a creative starter for an imaginative geographical journey around the United Kingdom.

Lesson idea
Context: United Kingdom, transport, developing place knowledge

Other resources
- access to ICT facilities, with internet connection
- Google Maps (http://maps.google.co.uk/) could be used to map the students’ journey and itinerary.

Suggested activities
Set the scene for the task. Explain to students that next week you will be standing on this station concourse, looking for the right train to catch to your first destination.

Their task is to plan you a tour of the four capitals of the countries that constitute the United Kingdom, including estimating the cost of the trip (but you will arrange your own accommodation in each city). You need to spend at least one day in each city. To generate competition, you could offer a prize for the student, or group of students, who come up with the cheapest estimate.

Using the internet, students investigate the means of completing the journey, producing a detailed itinerary, including locations, times, and costs. They could annotate such details onto Google Maps. There is also an opportunity for students to present their itinerary to the class.

Depending on the ability of the class, you could adapt the task to offer more challenge; for example, setting a budget, or restricting travel to certain forms of transport.

Curriculum opportunities
Sustainable development: The opportunity to discuss the availability of public transport, as well as the environmental impact of different types of transport.

Citizenship: The opportunity to develop students’ financial capability.

Personal, learning and thinking skills: The opportunity to develop independent/group problem-solving, as well as effective teamwork and presentation skills.

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