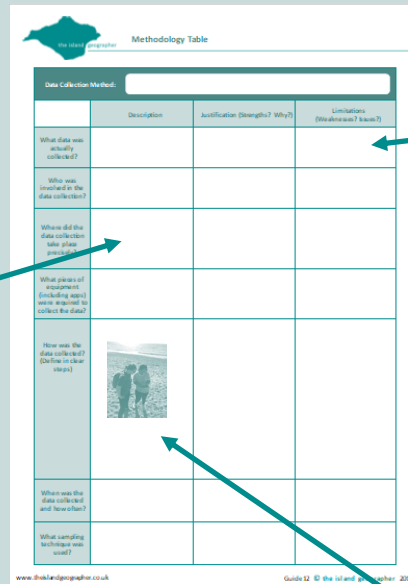



Think about every stage of the method - there should be enough detail that a stranger would be able to replicate the data collection exactly.



Methodology Table			
Data Collection Method: _____			
	Description	Justification (Strengths? Why?)	Limitations (Weaknesses? Risks?)
What data was actually collected?			
What was involved in the data collection?			
Where did the data collection take place?			
What pieces of equipment (including any special equipment) were required to collect the data?			
How was the data collected? (Detail in clear steps)			
When was the data collected and how often?			
What sampling technique was used?			

Be honest about the limitations and weaknesses of the method - they should not be a reflection on you as a geographer but instead be an honest acknowledgement of the fact that no method is perfect.

Use diagrams or photographs if they help you to explain how a piece of equipment is used.

Before you start



- Look back over your field notes and discuss the way the method was delivered with peers who were there. Make a brief note of any details you forgot.
- Think about the overall purpose of your research and refer to your aims, research questions or hypotheses. Make sure your method reflects these objectives and satisfies their requirements.
- Outline your method in skeleton format before you go out in the field. Then once you return, write it up in detail as soon as possible before you forget things.

Common mistakes to avoid



- Using meaningless justifications for your methods. It may have been 'easier' or 'quicker' to do something a particular way but explain to the reader *why* it was easier or quicker instead.
- Missing the big picture. It is relatively straightforward to examine the practicalities of your chosen method but remember to take a step back and question "why am I even collecting this type of data in the first place?"
- Making it too personal. For example, the reader will not need to know the actual names of the people with whom you worked.