



THE HIGHFIELD SCHOOL

Geography Bridging Work

Preparing for Year 12 Geography

Exam 1 = Physical geography topics

- Water and Carbon cycles
- Coastal systems and landscapes
- Hazards

There are a number of things you can do in preparation:

1. **Developing as a geographer** - through general reading around/ watching videos/listening to podcasts etc. covering the geography subject to develop your geography knowledge and understanding.
2. **Become a News Buff**- Watch the news- BBC news between 6am-9am or at 6pm. Or get on the BBC news app? Other websites such as the Guardian, The Independent, The Times. Create a Geography in the News Diary of all things that are relevant to what you are studying?
3. **Preparing for the A Level Course**- Starting to explore the topics and their foundations in which they will be studied in the A Level Course.

To be a great geographer, you will need to develop the ability to think synoptically, being able to see the greater overview and how everything we study in Geography links together. Geography is not just about the studying people and landscapes, it is also the relationships that exists between people and their environment.

How can I develop as a Geographer before September?

Below are some links to podcasts, websites, books and even films which provide a great way of staying inspired and engaging with Geography:

PODCASTS:

- **Costing the Earth**- There are some great podcasts here to pick from on a wide variety of geographical issues. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/player> (many topics including climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative powers, plastics (etc)
- **Royal Geographical Society** - 'Ask the Geographer podcasts'
- <https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/> = a fantastic set of podcasts to keep A Level studies up to date with the latest geographical research = pick out some that interest you.
- **Links to general podcasts**
- <https://eternalexploration.wordpress.com/2016/01/04/top-10-podcasts-for-geography-students/> - this has a number of different links to geography podcast, specifically targeted to Geography students. Definitely recommend the TED talks.



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BOOKS:

If you are into reading both fiction and non-fiction, why not try some Geographically themed books/magazines:

- **The Ages of Gaia** (1988) James Lovelock; The Ages of Gaia explains Lovelock's theory that the earth is a living organism. The book describes how the living earth may work, today, and in ages past, based on the latest research of Lovelock and others
- **There Is No Planet B: A Handbook for the Make or Break Years** Paperback - 28 Feb 2019 by Mike Berners-Lee Feeding the world, climate change, biodiversity, antibiotics, plastics - the list of concerns seems endless. But what is most pressing, what are the knock-on effects of our actions, and what should we do first? Do we all need to become vegetarian? Fortunately, Mike Berners-Lee has crunched the numbers and plotted a course of action that is practical and even enjoyable.
- **Geography: Ideas in Profile** Paperback - 24 Mar 2016 by Danny Dorling (Author), Carl Lee (Author) Geography gives shape to our innate curiosity; cartography is older than writing. Channelling our twin urges to explore and understand, geographers uncover the hidden connections of human existence, from infant mortality in inner cities to the decision-makers who fly overhead in executive jets, from natural disasters to over-use of fossil fuels.
- **Adventures in the Anthropocene: A Journey to the Heart of the Planet we by Gaia Vince** (Author) We live in epoch-making times. The changes we humans have made in recent decades have altered our world beyond anything it has experienced in its 4.6 billion-year history. As a result, our planet is said to be crossing into the Anthropocene - the Age of Humans.
- **Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need to Know About Global Politics** by Tim Marshall (Author) All leaders are constrained by geography. Their choices are limited by mountains, rivers, seas and concrete. Yes, to follow world events you need to understand people, ideas and movements - but if you don't know geography, you'll never have the full picture.
- **Geography Review Magazines:** You will need to subscribe to this and you will get 4 up to date magazines with articles that will be really relevant to the topics that you are studying.



Geographical Documentaries:

There are some great geographical documentaries which will help develop your general geographical knowledge and understanding and help you see what an amazing world we live in. There are loads of up to date programmes on BBC I Player including those with David Attenborough, Brian Cox and Greta Thunberg to name a few worth a watch.



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What should I do with the News that I am watching?

You should be regularly watching the news to keep you up to date with what is happening in relations to the inter-relationship between people and the environment. You will be really surprised how many of the news bulletins relate to what you are studying.

- **BBC NEWS:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news-> an excellent source of up to date articles- explore the headings such as Science, UK, WORLD and other stores
- **THE GUARDIAN:** <https://www.theguardian.com/uk> - Again many useful articles and logically ordered - keep an eye on the Environment, Science, Society, Global Development Stories in particular.
- **THE CONVERSATION:** <https://theconversation.com/uk> - Really useful to support many of you're a Levels. Up to date articles from academics and specialists in the field written in a way that is accessible to all, summarising the key points in a short but insightful articles.

Buy yourself a **Scrapbook** and either cut out the headline from a newspaper/print it off/ or just write it in your book and summarise the following:

- What are the key things that the article is telling you about- can you summarise in to 10 main points
- What part of Geography/what we study does this link to?
- Are there any keywords that you need to look into more or you feel would be useful for your studies.

If you have any questions about the tasks on the next page please contact Mr Hobbs on philiphobbs@highfield.herts.sch.uk



Bridging Project tasks - You must complete this for your first lesson

By the end of the summer you should have a basic understanding of the following.

- What the systems approach is,
- How the different systems in physical geography may connect together; and,
- How humans can impact the different systems

In the first lessons especially you will use this to discuss with others in the class.

The bridging project is to get you to start reading, thinking and doing what geographers do best, presenting information in different ways.

Task 1. - Reading and writing!

What do you understand about the systems approach in geography?

Help: If you google "systems approach in geography" you will find many different definitions. You will need to read these different definitions, perhaps looking for common ideas and then formulate your own opinion based on what you have read. Remember if you don't understand a word or idea in a definition you are reading, do not give up. Carry on and read about that word or idea which will then help you fully understand the definition you are reading about. This is called reading around the subject, a skill which you need to learn how to do!

Task 2. - Thinking and linking!

1. Print out the final page of this document. You may decide to resize and cut out the image and stick on an A3 sheet.
2. Using the image creates geographical links/connections like the example below. You don't need to write everything out as long as you can explain your link to others.
3. I also want you to create a key; think like a geographer, how you might want to categorise these aspects? (There is no right or wrong way to do this as long as you can justify why you categorised the links/connections in that way).

Example:

A physical geography link is that the Lithosphere connects to the biosphere as rocks break down to help form different soil types. (Don't worry if you didn't know that!)

A human connection would be that Humans are impacting the biosphere by deforestation.



Task 3: - Writing tasks.

- 1) In 300 words, explain what 'geography' means to you.
- 2) Water as a resource is the most fought over commodity. To what extent do you agree with this statement? Write an extended written answer using PEEL Paragraphs.



