



# THE HIGHFIELD SCHOOL

## Geography Bridging Work

### Preparing for Year 12 Geography

Hoping to study Geography at A Level? Or interested in just furthering your knowledge of Geography post the GCSEs?

#### **There are a number of things you can do:**

1. **Developing as a geographer** – through general reading around/ watching videos/listening to podcasts etc 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 fictions, why not try some Geographically themed books/magazines:

- [Prisoners of Geography](#) by Tim Marshall – an insightful book which helps understanding how the physical geography impacts on political reality and really helps to understand how decisions of world leaders have been shaped by geography- a good introduction to Geopolitics
- [Geography Review Magazines](#): Subscribe for £40 and you will get 4 up to date magazines with articles that will be really relevant to the topics that you are studying. These are ideas and are all optional.



## 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.

The following are all available on IPLAYER:

- **David Attenborough Box Sets**- there are 9 amazing boxsets available on iplayer from David Attenborough exploring our amazing world. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06m42d9>
- **The Americas with Simon Reeve** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m00095p0/the-americas-with-simon-reeve> The first episode in Alaska/Canada is particularly good for Resource Security looking at energy.
- **Simon Reeve around the World** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm> The Russia series is really interesting.
- **Race across the World** → <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000g6nt/race-across-the-world-series-2-episode-1>

## Geography on NETFLIX, DVD or YOUTUBE:

- [Before the Flood](#)- A film presented by Leonardo DiCaprio- exploring climate change and looking at what needs to be done today to prevent catastrophic disruption
- **Our Planet Netflix Series**- Explores how climate change impacts all living creatures

## 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.



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- **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.

**Bring this with you for your first lesson in the September.**

Physical geography topics we will cover are:

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

**Pre Reading:**

**Water and Carbon:**

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Water and Carbon Revision](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/water-and-carbon-cycles/>** - some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **An introduction in to the [Water Cycle](#)**
- **An introduction in to the [Carbon Cycle](#)**
- **Water and Carbon [Overview](#)** – a piece of work from the Royal Geographical Society that summarises the course
- **Documentary on Climate change:**
  - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0009drg/panorama-climate-change-what-can-we-do>
  - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00049b1/climate-change-the-facts>
- **[News Articles](#) on Climate Change**

**Coasts:**

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Coasts Revision](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/coastal-systems-landscapes/>** - some good links to other reading for the subject.

**Hazards:**

- **Physics and Maths Tutor- [Hazards Revision](#)** – A really good overview of what the course is about and some of the information you will learn next year.
- **Physics and Maths Tutor- <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/geography-revision/a-level-aqa/hazards/>** some good links to other reading for the subject.
- **Video: Power of the Planet (Volcanoes) <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5af4kg>** - a great introduction to the work on volcanoes we will be doing



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- **Reading: Plate Tectonics (The Geological Society)** – This will be a good set up from your GCSE work to A Level and definitely worth navigating around the site <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Plate-Tectonics>



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## Geography Bridging Work

### **Bridging Project – You must complete this for the first lesson in September**

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 by 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 or draw out your own copy of the diagram. You may decide resize and cut out the image and stick on an A3 sheet. The choice is yours.
2. Using the image create 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.

**If you have any queries please contact Mr Hobbs on [philiphobbs@highfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:philiphobbs@highfield.herts.sch.uk)**

