

A Level Geography at Coombe Dean School

DEVELOPING AS A GEOGRAPHER

The below includes, websites, books, podcasts, documentaries and even films which provide a great way of staying inspired and engaging with geography.

TRANSITION TASK

To be accepted onto the A Level Geography course you must complete this transition task before the summer holidays. Please select **at least three different sources** of geographical information from the following list (challenge yourself to choose different types of information). For each one you must:

1. Read/watch/listen carefully
2. Write a summary of your findings/new information (approx. ½ side of A4 typed size 12 font)
3. Explain how this links to the geography knowledge and topics learnt so far at GCSE and potential new knowledge or skills in your upcoming A Level.

Please email to both ahusband@coombedean.co.uk and vtwine@coombedean.co.uk before the summer holidays on 21 July 2023.

i. ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES

THE CONVERSATION.COM <http://theconversation.com/uk> we can highly recommend you use this! This you will find is really useful to support many of your A Levels. It provides up to date articles from academics and specialists in the field written in a way that is accessible to all, summarising key points in short but insightful articles.

BBC NEWS <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news> - an excellent source of up to date articles – explore the key headings such as Science, as well as the UK, World and other stories.

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!

ii. PODCASTS

Now is the time to broaden your geographical understanding! Stick your headphones in and listen to some of the following...

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 amongst others.. climate change, carbon, urban greening, deforestation, alternative power, 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 and give them a go!

iii. BOOKS

Remember you can make use of the local libraries digital library service for books – you don't have to access hard copies. Failing that, book shops and Amazon are still delivering books during lockdown.

Prisoners of Geography (Marshall, T.) – an insightful book which helps understand how physical geography impacts on political reality and really helps to understand how decisions of world leaders have been shaped by geography – a great introduction to geopolitics.

The Power of Geography: Ten Maps That Reveal the Future of Our World (Marshall, T.) – the second in the series

Factfulness: Ten reasons we're wrong about the world – and why things are better than you think (Rosling, H. 2019) – this is a must-read book from a geography perspective – this takes a more realistic view of the world, presenting issues in fact-based context. It is a rational look at actually how far the world has measurably improved and what's left to be done.

The Almighty Dollar (Dharshini, D.) (2018) – Revealing the economic forces that are shaping our lives – who really holds the power, and how that affects us all.

iv. 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 a whole set of 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>
- **Simon Reeve around the world** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06rrnkm>
- **Mediterranean with Simon Reeve** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b0bnb6tt/mediterranean-with-simon-reeve>

*The following are all available on **ITV Hub***

- **Britain Underwater: Fighting the Floods** <https://www.itv.com/hub/britain-underwater-fighting-the-floods/7a0157>
- **Joanna Lumley's Hidden Caribbean: Havana to Haiti** <https://www.itv.com/hub/joanna-lumleys-hidden-caribbean-havana-to-haiti/2a7578>

*The following are all available on **Channel 4 – On Demand***

- **When the Immigrants Leave** (Dispatches) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/69555-001>
- **China's Lonely Hearts** (Unreported World) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/56011-011>
- **The world's dirtiest river** (Unreported world) <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/58399-001>
- **Forests of Fear** (Unreported World) - <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/69224-006>
- **Hurricane Hell (Unreported World)** <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/69224-007>
- **The World's Dirtiest Air (Unreported World)** <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/unreported-world/on-demand/67193-002>
- **The week Britain Froze (Dispatches)** <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/dispatches/on-demand/66548-007>

v. GEOGRAPHICAL FILMS or DOCUMENTARIES

(Some are available online free – others may be available on providers such as Amazon Prime / Netflix etc.)

- **Volcano: Rescue from Whakaari (2022)** – Survivors' and rescuers' accounts and minute-by-minute footage fuel this gripping documentary about the deadly 2019 volcanic eruption in New Zealand.
- **Aftershock: Everest and the Nepal Earthquake (2022)** - Survivors' first-hand accounts and actual footage fuel this emotional docuseries about the deadly 2015 earthquake that shook Nepal.
- **Kiss the Ground (2020)** - An optimistic, solutions-driven view of climate change. Narrated by Woody Harrelson, the film presents soil as the missing piece in the climate puzzle, highlighting the vital importance of this overlooked component of our ecosystems.
- **Chasing Coral (2017)** - Jeff Orlowski's film zooms in on the phenomenon of coral bleaching, yet another complicated cog in the never-ending wheel of climate change and global warming and its impact on our oceans in dire need for protection.
- **Sherpa (2015)** - Australian filmmaker Jennifer Peedom. It was filmed during the 2014 Mount Everest ice avalanche.
- **Touching the Void (15)** (great for visualising glacial landscapes) – a powerful true story docudrama (strong language in parts)
- **Before the Flood (2016) (PG)** – National Geographic <https://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/before-the-flood-2016/> (presented by Leonardo DiCaprio – exploring climate change and looking at what needs to be done today to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet.
- **The Impossible (2012) (12)** – Movie based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which killed 200,000 people.
- **Slumdog Millionaire (15)** – based on life in the slums of Mumbai
- **Our Planet** (Netflix series) – explores how climate change impacts all living creatures.
- **Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom (12)** – an epic which celebrates the journey of Nelson Mandela from childhood in a rural village through to his election as President of South Africa. This explores what happened in South Africa with regards to apartheid and Black opposition through the eyes of Nelson Mandela.
- **Hotel Rwanda (12)** - the true story of hotel manager who houses and protects Tutsi refugees – this is a hard-hitting film based on the Rwandan Conflict of the 1990s.
- **The Last King of Scotland (15)** – another hard-hitting story, based on struggles faced by Uganda under the dictatorship of Idi Amin.
- **Into the Wild (2007) (15)** – based on the story of a university graduate who gives up all of his material possessions and journeys alone into the Alaskan Wilderness.