

Year 11 Summer Geography Activities

Part One – General Geography

Looking for something to do with your suddenly extended summer break? The resources below will help you develop further as a geographer, whether you plan on taking A-Level Geography or not. Dip in and out whenever you are looking for something to do.

ONLINE NEWS ARTICLES - READ

THE CONVERSATION.COM <http://theconversation.com/uk>

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!

PODCASTS - LISTEN

Costing the Earth <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn/episodes/player>

There are some great podcasts here to pick from on a wide variety of geographical issues (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!

BOOKS – READ

[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.

[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.

[Adventures in the Anthropocene](#) (Vince, G) (2016) – this looks at the effects that humans are having on the surface and structure of the planet with a balance.

DOCUMENTARIES – WATCH

iPlayer

David Attenborough Box Sets <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p06m42d9>

Simon Reeve Box Sets <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/search?q=simon+reeve>

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>

All 4

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>

Netflix

A Plastic Ocean – [an investigation into the environmental impacts of plastic pollution](#)

Our Planet – [explores how climate change impacts all living creatures](#)

FILMS – WATCH

Touching the Void (15) (great for visualising glacial landscapes) – a powerful true story docudrama (strong language in parts)

Before the Flood (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 (12) – Movie based on real life events of the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami which killed 200,000 people.

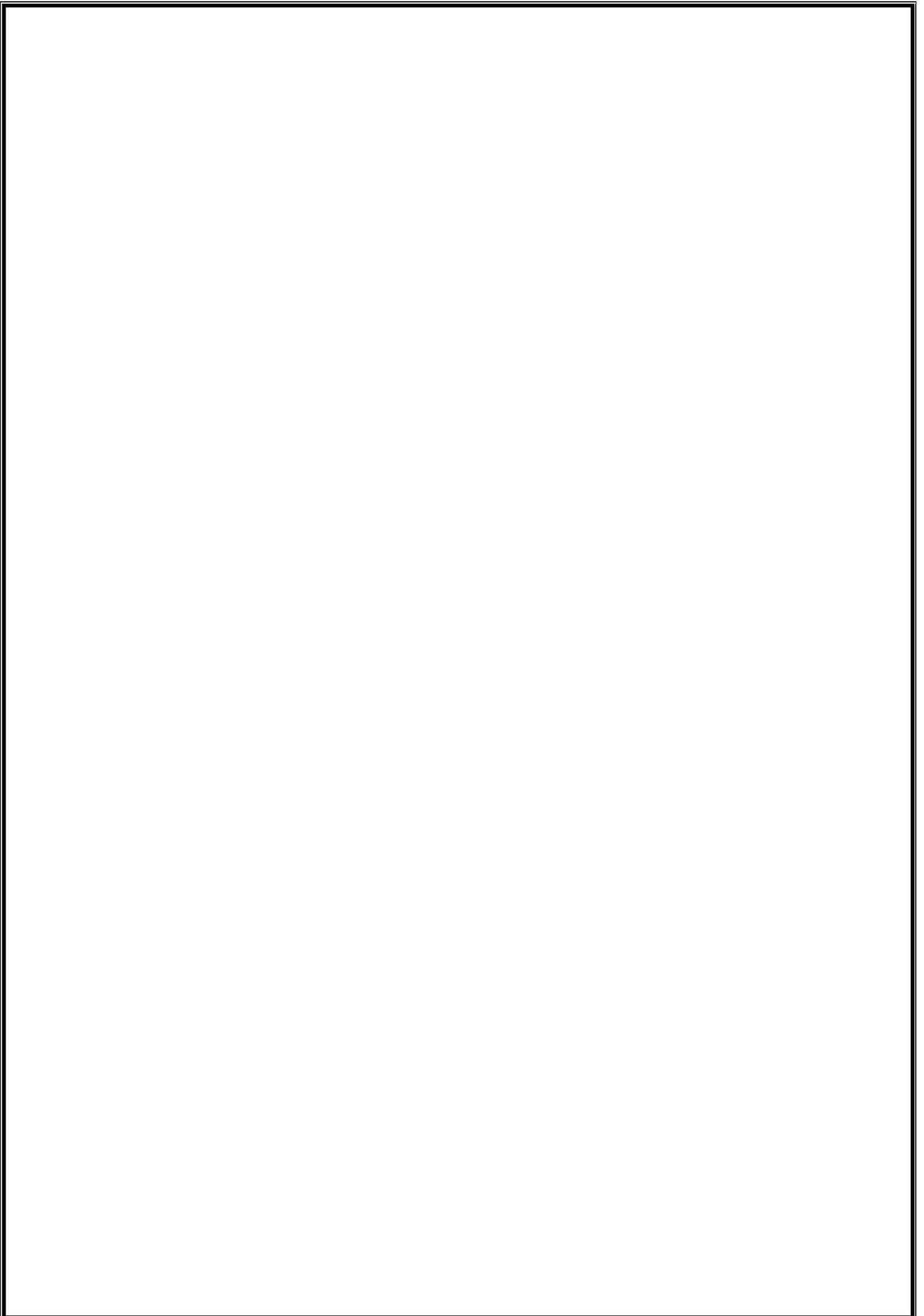
Slumdog Millionaire (15) – based on life in the slums of Mumbai

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 (15) – based on the story of a university graduate who gives up all of his material possessions and journeys alone into the Alaskan Wilderness



Year 11 Summer Geography Activities

Part Two – Preparing for A-Level Geography

We follow the OCR A-Level specification. The topics we cover are listed below, along with lots of suggested resources that you can dip in and out of. We will provide you with a textbook at the start of Y12, but if you would like to buy your own book we would recommend getting the Hodder OCR A-Level Geography Revision Guide <https://www.amazon.co.uk/My-Revision-Notes-level-Geography/dp/1510415513>.

UNIT 1 – PHYSICAL SYSTEMS

Topic 1 – Coastal Landscapes

You will be looking at coasts in a totally different way to GCSE study, developing an understanding of Earth surface processes, together with their associated transfers of energy and movements of materials. You will explore how coastal landscapes can be viewed as systems, how landforms develop within the landscape, and the influence of both climate and human activity on this.

READ: Coastal Landscapes – a good set of introductory notes

<https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/OCR/Coastal-Landscapes/Set-A/Notes%20on%20Coastal%20Landscapes%20-%20OCR%20Geography%20A-level.pdf>

WATCH: A-Level Geography: OCR Coastal Landscapes – a playlist of relevant videos to take a look at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdKtTw2bRL3wuuGYsiRISRJToWrLSXo1M&safe=true>

INTERACT: Seneca Learning – add ‘Geography: AQA A Level’ to your courses (there is no OCR option yet) and explore the tasks on Coastal Systems and Landscapes

Topic 2 – Earth’s Life Support Systems (Water and Carbon Cycle)

Water and carbon are fundamental to supporting life on earth and are hence regarded as ‘earth’s life support systems. Water and carbon are cycled in both open and closed systems between the land, oceans and the atmosphere. The processes in the water and carbon cycles are inter-related. Human activity is increasingly threatening and altering water and carbon cycles for example through deforestation, ocean acidification, desertification etc. It is important that we look at global and national solutions to protect these.

READ: Water and Carbon Cycling (Royal Geographical Society) – this is an excellent starting point / content overview for the water and carbon work that we will be looking at

<https://www.rgs.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?nodeguid=6dc9f1c1-f92d-4c04-9f85-9985844a6a79&lang=en-GB>

READ: Introduction to the Carbon Cycle <https://www.khanacademy.org/science/biology/ecology/biogeochemical-cycles/a/the-carbon-cycle>

READ: Introduction to the Water Cycle <https://www.khanacademy.org/science/biology/ecology/biogeochemical-cycles/a/the-water-cycle>

INTERACT: Seneca Learning – add ‘Geography: AQA A Level’ to your courses (there is no OCR option yet) and explore the tasks on Water & Carbon Cycles

UNIT 2 – HUMAN INTERACTIONS

Topic 1 – Changing Places, Making Spaces

This unit explores the relationships and connections between people, the economy and society and their contributing to placemaking (i.e. creating places). The unit explores the meanings and representations attached to places and how place making takes place at a variety of scales. It explores places from a local to global level.

READ: Changing Places (Royal Geographical Society) – another excellent starting point from the RGS

<https://www.rgs.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?nodeguid=944f2503-af13-4c7f-b178-e4bbaffb38eb&lang=en-GB>

INTERACT: Changing Spaces, Making Places – a good story map introduction – work your way through

<https://focusschoolwilton.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=f10c512164d0498d8f3bcfad8ae61d39>

READ: Changing Spaces- Making Places – a good starting point read

<https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/OCR/Changing-Spaces-Making-Places/Set-A/Notes%20on%20Changing%20Places,%20Making%20Places%20-%20OCR%20Geography%20A-level.pdf>

INTERACT: Seneca Learning – add ‘Geography: AQA A Level’ to your courses (there is no OCR option yet) and explore the tasks on Changing Places

Topic 2 – Global Connections

The focus of the global connection’s topics is exploring global processes and flows and their impact on people places and institutions. This will help you start to understand how the world around you is shaped, its complexities and the issues that arise. It is broken up into (i) Global Systems and (ii) Global Governance. We will cover one of the optional topics under each heading.

(i) Global Systems: Trade in the Contemporary World (Option A)

We follow the Trade Option (A) for the Global Systems part of the Global Connections topic. You will consider the systems that regulate and order world trade, financial transactions and interdependencies, which produce uneven geographies of winners and losers. We will look at how states and organisations respond to flows of trade, sometimes for the better and sometimes for the worse.

READ: Trade – a good set of starting notes [https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/OCR/Trade-in-the-Contemporary-World/Set-](https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/OCR/Trade-in-the-Contemporary-World/Set-A/Notes%20on%20Trade%20in%20the%20Contemporary%20World%20-%20OCR%20Geography%20A-level.pdf)

[A/Notes%20on%20Trade%20in%20the%20Contemporary%20World%20-%20OCR%20Geography%20A-level.pdf](https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/OCR/Trade-in-the-Contemporary-World/Set-A/Notes%20on%20Trade%20in%20the%20Contemporary%20World%20-%20OCR%20Geography%20A-level.pdf)

READ/INTERACT: Our World in Data – notes on global patterns of trade, and how they have changed, plus lots of graphs etc. to interact with. <https://ourworldindata.org/trade-and-globalization>

INTERACT: The Observatory of Economic Complexity – find out what each country trades, who with, and how this has changed. The link takes you to the UK, but you can search for any country

<https://oec.world/en/profile/country/gbr/>

(ii) Global Governance: Human Rights (Option C)

We follow the Human Rights Option (C) for the Global Governance part of the Global Connections topic. You will explore what is meant by human rights and how women’s rights vary through exploration of the complexity of gender inequality. The course will also explore the global governance of human rights and the extent to which intervention in human rights is contributing to development.

READ: Human Rights - a good starting point read <https://pmt.physicsandmathstutor.com/download/Geography/A-level/Notes/OCR/Human-Rights/Set-A/Notes%20on%20Human%20Rights%20-%20OCR%20Geography%20A-level.pdf>

WATCH: World's worst place to be a woman? (Stacey Dooley Investigates)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b06mvwhb/stacey-dooley-investigates-worlds-worst-place-to-be-a-woman>

WATCH: Why climate change is a threat to Human Rights (TED Talk)
https://www.ted.com/talks/mary_robinson_why_climate_change_is_a_threat_to_human_rights

WATCH: What if a single human right could change the world? (TED TALK)
https://www.ted.com/talks/kristen_wenz_what_if_a_single_human_right_could_change_the_world

WATCH: For Sama – an epic and intimate journey filmed through the uprising in Aleppo, Syria, as the population's basic rights disintegrate around them <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/for-sama>

UNIT 3 – GEOGRAPHICAL DEBATES

Topic 1 – Disease Dilemmas

We follow the Disease Dilemmas option as part of Unit 3. Diseases do not discriminate who becomes infected or develops symptoms. Disease can be communicable (those you catch) and non-communicable (those you don't). A number of physical and human factors affect the susceptibility of individuals and communities to disease risk. You will look at the global nature of diseases, in terms of how they spread and their scale, and consider the national and international efforts to combat them. The causes of diseases are often complex, and the impacts even more so, especially when dealing with diseases at epidemic and pandemic levels. The topic also looks at how our developing understanding of diseases offers opportunities to combat them, but also how global inequalities have implications for certain communities and countries.

READ: The coronavirus – keep up-to-date with developments surrounding the outbreak
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/world-52026908>

WATCH: Contagion: The BBC Four Pandemic <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p059y0p1/contagion-the-bbc-four-pandemic>

WATCH: The Flu That Killed 50 Million – a look at the Spanish Flu of the First World War
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b0blmn5l/the-flu-that-killed-50-million>

WATCH: Pandemic – a Netflix series charting how we deal with disease
<https://www.netflix.com/search?q=pandemic&bv=81026143&jbp=0&jbr=0>

LISTEN: This Podcast Will Kill You – looking at a range of diseases from across human history, with a variety of platforms available for listening <http://thispodcastwillkillyou.com/>

Topic 2 – Hazardous Earth

We follow the Hazardous Earth option as part of Unit 3. We explore how our understanding has evolved with regards to the seismic and volcanic activity that we experience through the movement of the earth's tectonic plates. We look at how these tectonic processes have shaped our world and created new landforms, helping to support life on earth. We also explore the potential impact of the hazards associated with earthquakes and volcanoes and how as technology has developed, we have improved our ability to predict and mitigate, whilst considering reasons for the variation in risks associated with hazards both spatially and over time. We will be looking at the concepts of risk and resilience and how these can be managed at various levels and to various degrees of success.

WATCH: Power of the Planet (Volcanoes) - a great introduction to the work we will be doing on volcanoes
<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5af4kg>.

READ: Plate Tectonics (The Geological Society) – this will be a good step up from your GCSE work to A Level and is definitely worth reading / working through <https://www.geolsoc.org.uk/Plate-Tectonics>

READ: USGS Natural Hazards – FAQ – some excellent reading here in bitesize chunks – well worth exploring <https://www.usgs.gov/faq/natural-hazards>

WATCH: Expedition Volcano – a journey into the unknown world of the major volcanoes in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Some great links to disease dilemmas too! Part One <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6b0ao7> Part Two <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6gbazk>