

Raising aspirations – Geography

Geography inspires curiosity about the world and raises aspirations by helping students understand the connections between people, places, and environments. It develops essential skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, data analysis, and communication—skills that are highly valued in careers like environmental science, urban planning, and international business, alongside jobs dealing with sustainability in every career sector. Geography equips students to tackle global challenges such as climate change and inequality, preparing them to make informed decisions for the future. By studying Geography, students gain the knowledge and confidence to shape a better world.

Career Category	Example Careers	Why Geography?
Global & Policy	Diplomatic Service, International Aid Worker, Geopolitical Risk Analyst	Understanding of global systems, cultural differences, and political geography.
Environment & Sustainability	Climate Change Consultant, Carbon Analyst, Hydrologist, Renewable Energy Planner	Expertise in Earth systems, data modelling, and resource management.
Urban & Data	Urban Planner, Cartographer (GIS Specialist), Data Scientist, Transport Planner	Spatial reasoning, use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and understanding of urban dynamics.
Business & Logistics	Logistics Manager, Retail Location Analyst, Market Researcher	Knowledge of global supply chains, trade, and optimal spatial distribution.

Suggested Reading list

KS3 (years 7-9)

Geography for beginners – This book helps readers understand and make sense of our relationship with the planet, finding ways to change it for the better.

Adventures in Volcanoland – by Tasmin Mather, charting journeys across deserts, through jungles and up ice caps, to some of the world's most important volcanoes, exploring the cultural and religious roles they have played and the science behind their formation and eruptions.

Prisoners of Geography - by Tim Marshall, exploring 10 maps which show key political, cultural and hotspots in our world, explaining geopolitics for the 21st century.

KS4/5 (years 10-13)

Adventures in the Anthropocene - Gaia Vince decided to travel the world from artificial glaciers in the Himalayas to painted mountains in Peru, electrified reefs in the Maldives to garbage islands in the Caribbean, Gaia found people doing the most extraordinary things to solve the problems that we ourselves have created.

When the Rivers Run Dry, Fully Revised and Updated Edition: Water-The Defining Crisis of the Twenty-First Century – by Fred Pearce, With vivid on-the-ground reporting, Pearce deftly weaves together the scientific, economic, and historic dimensions of the water crisis, showing us its complex origins--from waste to wrong-headed engineering projects to high-yield crop varieties that have saved developing countries from starvation but are now emptying their water reserves. .

Shattered Nation – by Danny Dorling – Britain was once the leading economy in Europe; it is now the most unequal. In Shattered Nation, leading geographer and author of Inequality and the 1% shows that we are growing further and further apart. Visiting sites across the British Isles and exploring the social fissures that have emerged, Danny Dorling exposes a new geography of inequality

Websites

Teachit Geography [Visit Teachit Geography \[teachit.co.uk\]](https://www.teachit.co.uk)- A trusted platform with worksheets, teaching packs, games, and revision resources for KS3–KS5, covering physical and human geography topics.

BBC Bitesize Geography [Geography - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.com/education/primary-geography) - Offers clear explanations, videos, quizzes, and revision guides for KS3 and GCSE Geography. Perfect for independent learning and exam preparation.

Royal Geographical Society (RGS) [Resources for schools | RGS](https://www.rgs.org/resources-for-schools) - Includes case studies, podcasts, and teaching materials on contemporary geographical issues like climate change and urbanisation.

Internet Geography [Home - Internet Geography](https://www.internet-geography.com) - Internet Geography is a dynamic online portal for students serious about their subject. In-depth case studies and global news analysis.

The Geography Portal - [A-Level Geography Resources | G.Portal](https://www.the-geography-portal.com) - A level resources, questions and articles.

Podcasts

Ask the Geographer (Royal Geographical Society) [Listen Here \[rgs.org\]](https://www.rgs.org/ask-the-geographer) - Expert interviews on topics like climate change, urbanisation, and global challenges, with accompanying activities—ideal for KS4 and KS5.

Coffee & Geography [Listen Here \[podcast.feedspot.com\]](https://podcast.feedspot.com/coffee-geography/) - Explores the connections between geography and everyday life in a fun, conversational style—great for sparking curiosity across all key stages.

BBC Radio 4: Costing the Earth - [BBC Radio 4 - Costing the Earth](https://www.bbc.com/radio4/costing-the-earth) - covers contemporary issues like biodiversity loss, resource management, climate change mitigation, and government policy. It's brilliant for sparking debates.

Sense of Place - <https://www.senseofplacepod.com/> - This podcast explores how people shape the world and how the world shapes us. It's excellent for topics like place, identity, urban change, and regeneration.

The Geographical Podcast (Geographical Magazine) - A monthly deep-dive taking subjects from the magazine. It's fantastic for providing global case studies on biodiversity, extreme environments, and the latest in conservation science. Very current.

GeogPod (Geographical Association) - [GeogPod - The GA's Podcast - Geographical Association](https://www.geogpod.com/) - Direct from the Royal Geographical Society. Features interviews with leading academics on topics like sustainable cities, coastal erosion, and climate change. It provides up-to-date Wider Reading material.

Digital & Spatial Skills (GIS)

QGIS (Free Open-Source Software) [Download · QGIS Web Site](https://qgis.org/en/site/) - is the free, professional-grade Geographic Information System (GIS) software used globally by geographers, planners, and environmental scientists.

Teach with GIS UK (ArcGIS) - [Teach with GIS UK](https://www.teachwithgisuk.com/) - This hub provides curriculum-aligned lessons, tutorials, real-world data, and case studies to help you master the professional skills valued by universities and employers.

Inspirational Videos

How Geography Explains our world - <https://youtu.be/2d7XeeC6nrs> - A fascinating short talk exploring how rivers, mountains, and oceans have shaped human history and global politics.

The Future of Food - <https://youtu.be/WF4xseLYC3E> This lecture features experts like Professor Paul Behrens (Oxford, focused on climate, food, and energy) discussing the acceleration of climate change and its impact on the globalised food system.