

Peninsula geography southwest's Primary Newsbites

Issue 5 - March 2023



'Knowledge is like a Baobab tree, one person's arms cannot encompass it.'

Ghanaian proverb (West Africa)

Welcome to the fifth of our monthly newsletters, which is aimed at providing ideas and inspiration for primary geography colleagues, whether located in the south-west of England or elsewhere. As always, feedback is welcome.

Compiled by Alan Parkinson and Emma Espley.

#0323.01: Digimap for Schools webinars

The webinar shown below was part of a series that was recorded back in 2022 to support users of Edina's **Digimap for Schools** subscriptions service (<https://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk>). There were practical webinars showing the functionality of the service and annotation tools and layers (presented by Kit Rackley and Darren Bailey) alongside more creative and conceptual sessions by Paula Owens and myself. They can all still be viewed on the Digimap for Schools YouTube channel area: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLk8clPy0M_gTy5Fm5Xa33XIOcCjMfjwKR My session was entitled '*Helping you to be outstanding in your field*' and contains thoughts on how OS maps can be used in fieldwork situations, with a particular focus on our Year 4 fieldwork in Hunstanton at the start of each academic year.



The webinar can be viewed here:

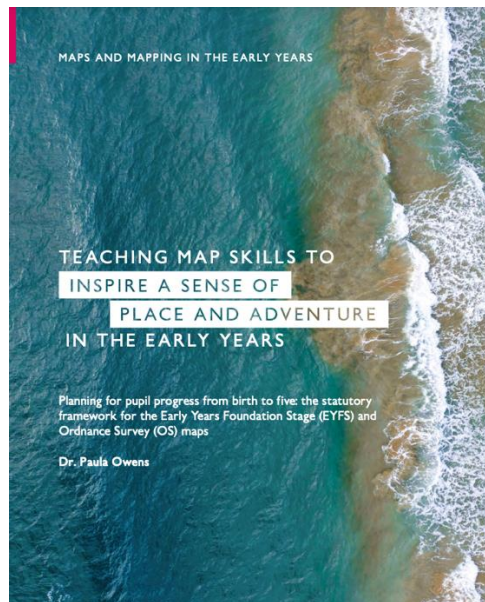
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydTAPKfp1dY&list=PLk8clPy0M_gTy5Fm5Xa33XIOcCjMfjwKR&index=5

If you would like to see the slides I used, they are hosted here on my LivingGeography blog:

<https://livinggeography.blogspot.com/2022/04/digimap-for-schools-webinar.html>

Paula Owens has also created a very helpful document for Early Years colleagues, which can be downloaded as a PDF and provides a broader view on maps and mapping:

https://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk/learningresources/resource/130maps_and_mapping_early_years.html



#0323.02: Food for thought

I have a unit on the geographies of food, which is called *'Food for thought'*. This has proved to be rather good timing given the plethora of stories in the news about food price inflation, shortages of tomatoes in early March 2023 and the anniversary of the war in Ukraine, which kick-started some of the extra costs for farmers and the food-processing industries. There is much to discuss here with young people, although a degree of sensitivity should be maintained as many families may be struggling and needing the support of food banks.

Here are a few food-related links that may be of interest when thinking about this topic.

This RGS-IBG resource is for use with Year 7, but would be accessible to Upper Key Stage 2 pupils:

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/teaching-resources/you-are-what-you-eat/rising-food-prices/>

There are over 500 Creative Commons licensed images on my Flickr account:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/geographypages/albums/72157603800738745>

Follow De-Graft as he explores food and farming in this informative BBC Teach video:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/ks2-geography-food-and-farming/z9yjjsjg>

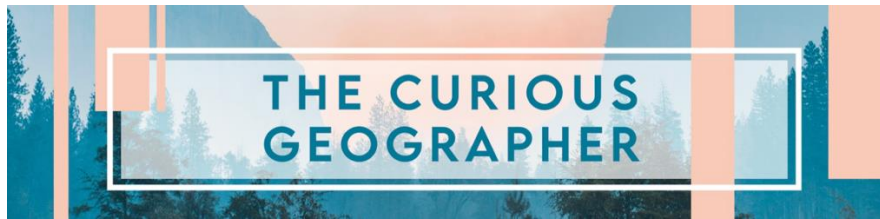
Alternatively, follow the story of David Mwanaka, who moved to the UK from Zimbabwe and started growing crops he was familiar with from his old home:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/history-ks2-black-british-stories-david-mwanaka/zfjd96f>

Keep an eye on this as it is, perhaps, the most quotidian of all experiences: a shared experience whatever your culture and country of origin.

#0323.03: The Curious Geographer

Ellie Barker is a teacher who runs a YouTube channel for older students and also provides videos of interviews with prominent geographers and authors. It is here where the interest particularly lies for primary colleagues. The resources are very much aimed at those sitting public examinations at a higher level, but the interviews and other videos would be of interest for subject-knowledge updates, perhaps to be watched as a department to consider some of the themes involved?



The YouTube channel can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv3KwaZkZPCPT7NI6KYnnew>

Professor Chris Jackson, who has previously been involved in presenting the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures, talks engagingly about volcanoes (a popular primary topic) in one of her interviews:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2tcrWRT61k>

Professor Ilan Kelman reminds us that the phrase 'natural disasters' should be avoided - no disasters are natural and, if there are problems, they are generally the result of human decisions about how and where to build their homes or who to support:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjG4j7M3f9s>

He also provides a very useful brief definition of what a disaster is, which I have used with my own pupils:

'A disaster is an event that requires people to seek outside help to deal with it.'

#0323.04: How crowded are places?

I am currently teaching about population density and distribution. This is in the context of a unit on Europe to show that there are regional differences across the continent. Northern Europe is the least densely populated area, whereas Western Europe is the most densely populated. We talk about distribution and density of population within the classroom to reinforce the idea that people are not spread equally across any area. This also leads to a discussion regarding the problems of choropleth maps (a common map that primary colleagues may encounter).

Alasdair Rae produced a very useful summary of the most densely populated one-kilometre squares in a number of European cities. My pupils were very taken with the image of Barcelona at the top of this report and became more fascinated as I scrolled down the page to reveal the ever-growing numbers compared to their guesses as to where the most densely populated squares would be:

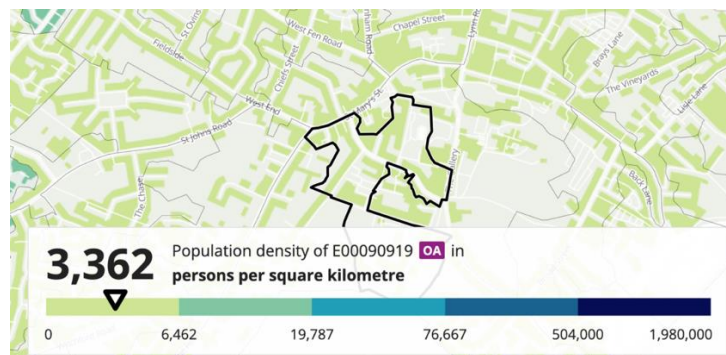
<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/gallery/2018/mar/22/most-densely-populated-square-kilometres-europe-mapped>

The Census 2021 produced a lot of data on this to bring the story closer to home.

Maps were released recently and can be viewed here, which shows the population in each output area (they can be zoomed into as always to reveal the changing numbers at different scales):

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/census/maps/choropleth/population/populationdensity/population-density/persons-per-square-kilometre>

Here is the density of the area around my own school as shown on the ONS mapping.



The maps can be downloaded or you can obtain an embed code to add to school websites or elsewhere.

Twitter Suggestions

Account	Who they are	What they tweet about
@shiv_teaching	Shiv Das	A Scottish teacher who posts regular images and ideas which could be used for display or to provoke discussions around the value of geography.
@UKPolarnetwork	UK Polar Network	The UK Polar network offers a range of outreach work, including Polar pen pals, school visit options and also an annual competition to design an Antarctica flag. Find out more on their website: https://polarnetwork.org/
@LEAF_Education	LEAF Education	Farming and food resources exploring food production https://leaf.eco/education/leaf-education

Reading List

After last issue, we have another book with a slight focus on climate change, of which there are many. We would suggest taking a look at *'The Rescue of Ravenwood'*, the new book by Costa Award winner Natasha Farrant.



From the publisher's description:

'To Bea and Raffy, Ravenwood is home. In its own way, the house rescued them, even if it did have a fallen-down tree taking up most of the kitchen. So the idea that it could be sold. Demolished even. Well, that's unthinkable. Then again, it's not like the children get a choice. But the truth is, we can all make our own choices, especially if we care enough. ... A beautiful, soulful, exciting story about holding onto what's precious, and guarding the extraordinary nature that surrounds us.'

We hope you celebrated World Book Day in early March and, perhaps, even made use of your tokens. Here are some suggestions from Discover the World Education:

<https://www.discover-the-world.com/study-trips/blog/great-geography-reads/>

What's on

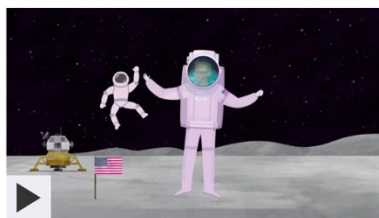
Within each issue of *Primary Newsbites*, we will share details of at least one event or film/TV programme that we think you may find interesting.

Why not watch these short films made by BBC Teach on the cross-curricular theme of explorers.

There are 5 of them:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/ks2-explorers/zjh8bdm>

Each short film is presented by two children: Fatima and Ollie, who are able to visit explorers from the past using their Holo-Lab. They meet five explorers from different times, frontiers and continents. Importantly, there is the addition of Ibn Battuta to provide an alternative perspective on the idea of exploration.



Neil Armstrong

Neil Armstrong's historic voyage to the Moon is explored in this short animated film for primary pupils.



Christopher Columbus

This short animated film for primary pupils takes a look at Christopher Columbus' epic adventures to the Americas and the changes in travel and exploration over time.



Robert Falcon Scott

Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated journey to the South Pole is brought to life in this short animated film for primary pupils.



Amelia Earhart

The life of Amelia Earhart, a courageous pilot who broke records in the air, is introduced to primary pupils in this short animated film.



Ibn Battuta

Through Ibn Battuta's epic 29-year journey, primary pupils can explore core learning topics such as creative writing, pilgrimage, Hajj and early Islamic civilisation.



BBC Bitesize - Back in time with... Exciting Explorers

Make a journey back in time with the record-breaking people who explored the world (and beyond!) with this BBC Bitesize game.

An event which took place last month was the 25th Charney Manor Primary Geography Conference. There were many excellent presentations, some of them will be appearing on my blog shortly. My own presentation was on the Fawcett Fellowship, which is offered by the Institute of Education at University College London.



I have been a Fawcett Fellow this year and have found the experience really valuable:

<https://www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/resources/information-for-schools/introduction>

If you have an idea that you would like to contribute to the newsletter, then please get in touch and tell us more via Twitter @GeoBlogs or email: a.parkinson@gmail.com.

Due to further interest and demand, **Wicked Weather Watch** have another virtual multi-schools event approaching on Wednesday 29th March 2023. Currently, there are just three school places left. Further information can be gained from the flyer below or by e-mailing Rhianna at Wicked Weather Watch: schools@wickedweatherwatch.org.uk.

Arctic virtual multi-schools event What is so cool/about the Arctic?



Wicked Weather Watch is collaborating with Emma Espley from [Create2Inspire](#) to bring schools a whole day, highly engaging, interactive, virtual multi-schools experience that will take pupils and their teachers on a journey to the Arctic. Schools throughout the UK and Europe are welcome on board!

Pupils will learn about the Arctic, the tundra biome (climate, soils, flora, and fauna), the people that live there, the impacts of climate change upon this fragile region and its inhabitants, and how we can reduce our own carbon footprint here in the UK to ensure the sustainability of our planet.

The day will even provide an opportunity to hear from a real-life explorer, Nanou Blair Gould, who travelled to the High Arctic Archipelago by tall ship. Among many extraordinary things, she witnessed the effects of global warming first-hand. Nanou was so invigorated by the adventure – the people, life outdoors, the sense of purpose – that she joined the ship again, working among the small crew for almost four months.

Targeting upper KS2, notably Years 5 and 6, and supporting a transition to KS3, this event will cover many different areas of the curriculum and key skills, especially geography, numeracy/maths, literacy/English, and critical thinking. We will develop key aspects of substantive knowledge, such as place and locational knowledge, physical and human geography and geographical skills, as well as nurturing disciplinary knowledge, e.g. working and thinking like a geographer, in the process.

The cost for each school is £150 (you can involve as many upper Key Stage 2 teachers and pupils as is feasible your end). The next available date for this event is **Wednesday 29th March 2023**. Check out what we have done in previous sessions by exploring these blog post reports: [December](#), [January](#), [February](#).

If you wish to reserve a place for your school, then please contact Rhianna at schoolswickedweatherwatch.org.uk by **Friday 17th March 2023**. Places are limited and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

"It is everyone's job to tackle climate change. Just because we are over ten hours away by plane doesn't mean that the plastic that we drop won't work its way to the Arctic Ocean" – Y6 Pupil

"Amazing; fantastic; interesting; super and informative" – Y6 Teacher

create 2 inspire



The deadline for Issue 6 is 20th April 2023.

We would love to showcase your work in future issues as well, so please feel free to share if you have been inspired by something that you have read on these pages.

For example, did you produce some poetry on National Poetry Day?

How have you tackled the issues discussed at COP27?