

Peninsula geography southwest's Primary Newsletter

Issue 7 - Summer 2023



Opening quote courtesy of Mary Myatt



Mary Myatt
@MaryMyatt

...

Nurturing global citizens in primary schools is crucial. Geography broadens horizons, develops empathy.



Welcome to the seventh of our monthly newsletters, which is aimed at providing ideas and inspiration for primary geography colleagues whether you are located in the south west of England or otherwise. As always, feedback is welcome. In this issue, we explore some ideas for some summer geography.

Compiled by Alan Parkinson and Emma Espley.

#0723.01: RMetS Heatwave Scheme of Work

We had the first spell of heat for 2023 in the second week of June, with temperatures breaking the 30°C threshold for the first time. The Royal Meteorological Society has worked with the Young People's Trust for the Environment to create a package of lesson plans, which consists of four lessons and all the associated resources:

Lesson 1: What are heatwaves?

Lesson 2: Why are heatwaves dangerous?

Lesson 3: How can schools prepare for a heatwave?

Lesson 4: What is your school like during a heatwave and how could it be improved?

When completed, students should be able to show which places in the school are most affected by extreme heat, understand what measures could be put in place to reduce the

impact of extreme heat and be able to present their learning and research. The lessons have been designed to support learners in Key Stage 2 (or equivalent) with increased understanding of heatwaves, the reasons why we are likely to face more of them in the future and some steps that schools can take to protect young people during these events.

The lessons can be adapted to suit other age groups by modifying the information given in the linked notes.

<https://www.metlink.org/resource/heatwaves/>



The Met Office has been involved in producing four levels of heatwave alert for the Government to use in advising people of the potential risks of extreme heat: green, yellow, amber and red.

See all the details here:

<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/heat-health-alert-service>

I have been using these resources in my own school and they have been well-received by Year 6. They include an excellent multi-media presentation, which can be personalised to your own school, and linked worksheets, including guidance for carrying out research on the impact of heatwaves and what can be done to reduce these impacts as a school community. The RMetS also has other primary resources, such as this activity exploring temperature measurements. These can all be found on the MetLink resource website:

<https://www.metlink.org/resource/measuring-temperature-keeping-warm/>

#0723.02: GA Conference 2024

Thanks to all those who came along to the **Geographical Association Conference** in Sheffield in April 2023. This was a hybrid event once again. If you did come along, the recordings of primary-focussed sessions (and others) are available to view again from the link on the GA website and you should have been sent the password to access them:

<https://geography.org.uk/conference-2023-recordings/>

Each year, those who present are asked to send in their presentations and these are appearing on this page:

<https://geography.org.uk/sheffield-2023-session-downloads/>

Next year's conference has the theme of **'Geography for Everyone'** and will take place at the University of Manchester. The theme has been chosen by Denise Freeman, who will take over as President in September 2023. Why not consider submitting a session for this conference?

The proposal form is available here, with a deadline of the end of September 2023. This could be done individually or alongside a colleague and would be a very useful subject development opportunity.

Why not also apply for £100 from the Sheila Jones Legacy Fund to help organise a primary network meeting or event?

<https://geography.org.uk/sheila-jones-legacy-fund/>

#0723.03: Young Geographer of the Year Competition 2023

This is an annual competition organised by the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG). The theme of this year's competition is "A blueprint for the future". The RGS are looking for innovative ideas to address problems in areas, such as food production and supply, energy and sustainability, water security, resources and population growth. The competition has four age categories, which includes one for Key Stage 2 (pupils aged 7-11).



Entry is in the form of an A3 poster, which should focus on possible solutions to one of the world's problems. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/young-geographer-of-the-year/2023-competition/>

You have until 5.00 pm on Monday 2nd October 2023 to submit your entry.

#0723.04: United Learning Curriculum Materials

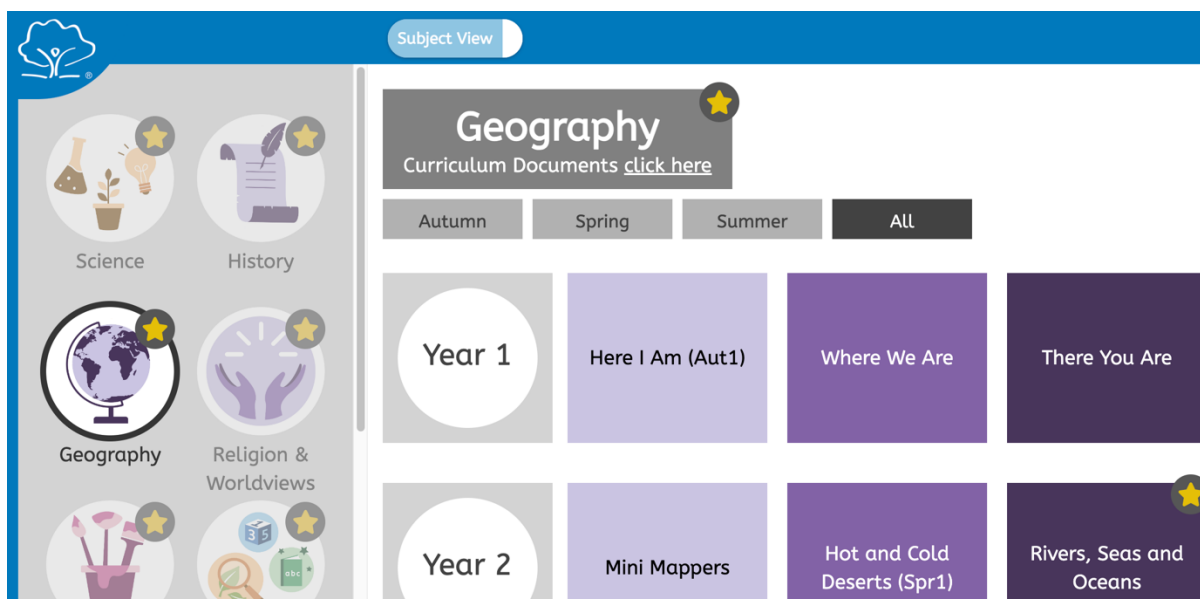
United Learning is a paid-for option.

It is based on work carried out in schools that have tested the materials. The United Curriculum is sequenced so that ideas are explicitly taught and revisited, ensuring concepts are deepened over several years. For this reason, the United Curriculum is available for a minimum term of three years, which involves a significant investment, so is not something to do without checking the quality of the materials.

You can take a look at some sample materials by registering for a free account.

<https://curriculum.unitedlearning.org.uk/Curriculum>

For example, geography will cost £1 per pupil per year. Mention of these resources is to draw your intention to them; no endorsement is given as we have not seen the full suite of materials.



#0723.05: Free trees for schools

The Woodland Trust offers free tree packs for schools. Now would be a good time to order them, ahead of the summer break.

<https://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/menu/>

There is a useful little simulator on the site where you can see how your trees might grow. With carbon capture and biodiversity important aspects to cover, a newly planted area would be a useful focus for work.

Twitter Suggestions

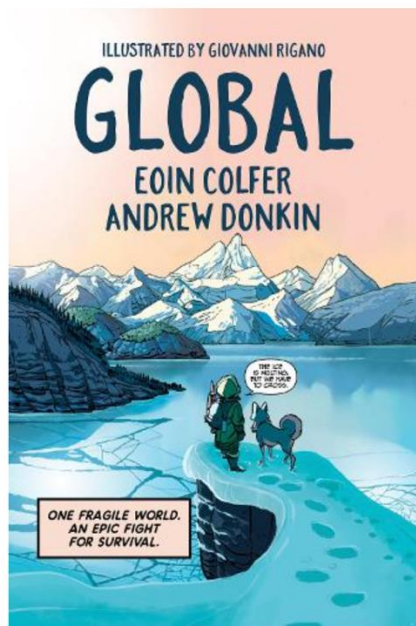
Account	Who they are	What they tweet about
@b_cltd	B&C Educational	Producers of paid-for resources called 'Keys', which explore areas of the Key Stage 1 and 2 geography (and history) curriculum. Their resources received a GA Highly Commended Award in 2018. Take a look here: https://www.bandceducational.com/
@LEAF_Education	Leaf Education	Working to engage, inspire and motivate young people by offering a balanced and informed insight into food production, farming and the environment. https://leaf.eco/education/leaf-education

Summer Reading List

Here are some suggestions for summer reading. There is currently a wealth of reading available for all year groups.

'Global' by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin, with illustrations from Giovanni Rigano, explores the impact of climate change in the Arctic through the story of an indigenous person.

<https://www.bestbooksforschools.com/products/global>



Feel free to add another book or two in Emma

What's On

With summer now almost upon us, there will be plenty of opportunities to venture outside. The GA has, once again, encouraged schools to spend time outside by organising the National Fieldwork Fortnight, which ran from the 26th of June to the 7th of July 2023.

<https://geography.org.uk/National-Fieldwork-Fortnight/>

Research suggests that there is a lot of value in fieldwork at any time of the year, however.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-44097-3>



If you have an idea that you'd like to contribute to the newsletter, please get in touch and tell us more:

via Twitter @GeoBlogs or

email: a.parkinson@gmail.com

The deadline for Issue 8 is the 20th August 2023.

This will include some ideas for starting the new academic year with a bang!

We always love to showcase your work in future issues, so please feel free to comment and share if you have been inspired by something that you read in

these pages. Why not 'send us a postcard' by tweeting us on the southwest geography Twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/geographysw> ?