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Geography Southwest Newsbites December 2024



Welcome to the Christmas 2024 Newsbites! Do look at the wide selection of new resources listed, the forthcoming events in January early February and thr links to end of term quizzes. The South West Geography Conference 2025 on Monday 16 June at the University of West of England (UWE) has several contributors confirmed. See programme **here.**

Do look at our latest guest blog. Anna Burns, Thames Area Director for the Environment Agency looks at the **Jubilee Flood Alleviation Scheme**, a useful case study for GCSE or A level.

A new addition to our Careers for Geographers page is examples of **coastal careers**, published in association with the

Dorset Coast Forum with examples of coastal careers.

Looking for end of term activities? Do look at the online **Big Christmas Geography Quiz**, published by Discover the World for KS3 to sixth form and Rayburn Tours **Big Geography Quiz** aimed at GCSE students. The Discover the World quiz include Tectonic hazards, Geographical features, Climate change, Weather hazards, Geography in the news, and Coastal landscapes including a round written by Geography Southwest. Rayburn Tours quiz has six rounds including Where am I and Extreme Earth.



Geography in the News

Storm Bert was a deep low pressure system of 945 mb that hit the UK on the week of 23-24 November, following an unexpected day of snow. It was a multi-hazard storm with wind gusts over 70 mph and 150 mm rain and snow falling on upland areas. Flooding, transport disruption and power cuts led to many schools and colleges being closed, but flood warning systems allowed people time to prepare while flood alleviation schemes reduced the impacts flooding in some risk areas. The Met Office produced a **detailed summary of Storm Bert** including data and figures suitable for a case study of a named storm.

Snow picture credit - Simon Ross

Storm Darragh affected large areas of the UK two weeks later from 6-9 December with wind gusts of over 90 mph. In the South West, high winds and heavy rain caused widespread road and rail closures due to fallen trees and floods, properties were damaged and some areas suffered lengthy power cuts. The coasts of north Somerset and Devon coasts were badly affected with damage reported in Weston Super Mare, and Clevedon. The seafront road at Minehead was covered in sand, looking like the Sahara. Christmas events and markets were closed. See images here.

Street Art celebrated in Exeter

Exeter has produced a street art map celebrating 10 commissioned street art pieces transforming overlooked areas with colourful images including an Avocet. This is a practical example of Changing Places as part of the Exeter Business Improvement District.



Plymouth City Centre redevelopment continues

As part of the £30 million Armada Way redevelopment in central Plymouth, work began in autumn 2024 on the new Plymouth Ampitheatre performance and events space to bring culture and arts to the City Centre.

Exeter's Princesshay rebranded at Christmashay

Exeter's Princesshay pedestrian shopping area was rebranded as Christmashay to attract shoppers, visitors and tourists. 25

local traders supported the Christmashay market with 13 decorated Christmas Cabins. Christmashay included Christmas lights, seasonal street furniture, a giant Christmas tree and street entertainment on most days in December. A seasonal example of Changing Places.



New geography resources



Teaching about managing Volcanoes as a natural hazard? Timeforgeography have published a third video on Iceland in collaboration with Rayburn Tours-**Isle of Fire | Part 3 | Volcanic eruption long-term impacts and responses.** This 18 minute

video focusses on the aftermath and impacts of the 1973 Heimaey eruption in Iceland in 1973.

Image credit: United States Geological Survey-Wikipedia commons.

Teaching about oceans or Antarctica?
The British Antarctic Survey has announced new study to look at the **effects of underwater tsunamis** caused by glacier calving in Antarctica, particularly on ocean currents and climate.

Looking for news on topical geographical issues to keep your students up to date? Rayburn Tours **November Geography in the News** includes the effects of Storm Boris on Europe, the UK September rainfall and floods and the impacts of the closure of traditional steelmaking at Port Talbot. With stunning images and useful figures you can view this online or download and print a copy.

Teaching about the relationship between climate change and global inequalities?
The Geographical Association has collaborated with academics and teachers to produce the curriculum resource **Global Inequalities and the Climate Crisis** (GICC) for KS3. It explores the relationships between global inequality and the climate crisis using the country of Cameroon as a case study through five lessons, including lesson PowerPoints, worksheets, and suggested lesson plans.



Teaching Climate change? The new GA book **Teaching climate change** has just been published. It looks at lively and practical ways to teach this topic, including the various ethical and moral issues involved.

Forthcoming events for geography teachers

RGS events:

Innovative teaching at GCSE on Tuesday 14 January 2025, 5.00pm-7.00pm is an online event exploring strategies that go beyond 'teaching the specification' to empower students to truly engage as geographers.

Supporting geography candidates with university applications is a free online course on Tuesday 4 February 2025, 5.00pm-6.30pm.

Geography in practice: learning from nature - supporting Natural Flood Management (NFM) design while enhancing river form and function is a free online Wednesday 12 February 2025, 12.30pm-1.30pm of interest to A level students.

Conference for new and aspiring heads of geography - Friday 14 March. Book here, for an in-person day event in London, focussing on leading a geography department and covering topics such as preparing students for NEAs, fostering a departmental culture and supporting non-specialist teachers.

GA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2025 open for early bird bookings. The 2025 GA annual conference at Oxford Brookes University is from Tuesday 15 to Thursday 17 April with an early booking discount available.

Teachers' Residential weekend of adventure, learning, relaxation in Wales. If you are keen to log some meaningful CPD hours next year, the Flooglebinder Wales Teacher's weekend can assist! Join the Flooglebinder team in March 2025 for a hosted weekend of adventure on the stunning Pembrokeshire coast with like-minded teachers. Join Chlöe Searl (FRGS, CGeog), The Island Geographer and Chair of the GA Fieldwork and Outdoor Learning SIG, for an immersive Creative Coastal Fieldwork session on a breathtaking beach. Renowned for her innovative geographical enquiries and resource sharing, Chlöe goes beyond traditional beach profiling to spark curiosity and inspire young geographers. Take a look at the full itinerary and book your place here.



Teaching A level geography: encouraging synoptic knowledge. This GA course has six weekly 45-minute twilight sessions starting on Wednesday 15 January with each session focussing on a key specification theme.

Look out for our next Newsletter in January 2025.
If you have not already signed up to receive this newsletter directly by email, please click on the **Sign Up box** and complete the short form below.

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