



ST. ANNE'S  
CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL

*'Act justly, love tenderly,  
walk humbly with your God'*

# Understanding Our World

THE GEOGRAPHY NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2026

# Introduction



Geography is at the heart of all learning, helping students to understand the complex and interconnected world they live in. From physical landscapes and ecosystems to global inequalities and climate challenges, geography equips students with the knowledge, skills and critical thinking needed to become informed, responsible global citizens. Across all key stages, lessons are enquiry-driven, skills-focused and rooted in real-world contexts that encourage curiosity and debate.

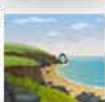
## Contents - A Guide to this Exciting Issue!

2. Introduction and Contents
3. What is Being Taught in Geography?
5. Revision
6. Geography Beyond the Classroom - Trips & Fieldwork
12. Insight into Student Work – Years 7, 8 & 9
14. Geography in the News
15. Earth Day Competition
16. Geography in Action – Ecowarriors
18. Know Your Local Parks & Green Spaces: Nature On Your Doorstep
19. What's Going On in London? Nature and Wildlife Events
20. Engaging Real-World Geography Reads: Recommendations for Aspiring Geographers
21. Country Review A-Z: Building Global Understanding One Letter at a Time
22. Lost & Found: A Geography Wordsearch
23. Crossed paths: A Geo Puzzle
24. The World's Natural Wonders: The Great Barrier Reef



# What is Being Taught in Geography?

At **KS3**, students build strong foundations in both physical and human geography, while developing core geographical skills.

| Teaching order                | Year 7                                                                                                     | Year 8                                                                                                                 | Year 9 (GCSE)                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Autumn Term<br>(Sept – Dec)   | Sense of Place<br>        | The Development Gap<br>              | Tectonic Hazards<br>  |
|                               | Geographical Skills<br>   | Study Region: China<br>              |                                                                                                          |
| Spring Term<br>(Jan - March)  | Shaping the Landscape<br> | A Resourceful World?<br>            | Changing Climates<br> |
|                               | Down at Coast<br>         | Study Region:<br>The Middle East<br> |                                                                                                          |
| Summer Term<br>(April – July) | Population<br>           | The World of Work<br>              | Extreme Weather<br>  |
|                               | City Life<br>           | Tourism<br>                        |                                                                                                          |

At **KS4**, students follow the GCSE Geography specification, deepening their knowledge and applying it to contemporary global issues. Our exam board is Edexcel Spec B.

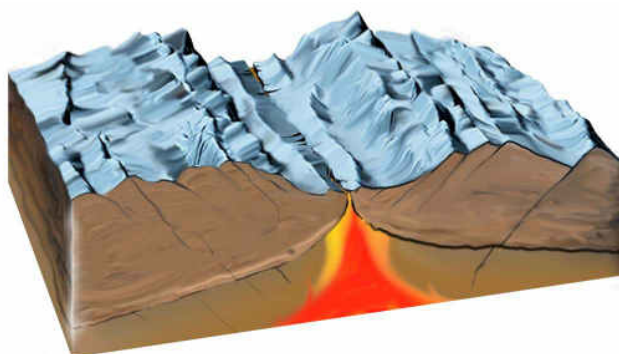
| Unit                               | Exam % | Modules covered                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Global Issues                   | 37.5%  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hazardous Earth</li> <li><b>Development Dynamics</b></li> <li>Challenges of an Urbanising World</li> </ul>       |
| 2. UK – Geographical Issues        | 37.5%  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evolving human landscape</li> <li>Evolving physical landscape</li> <li>Geographical investigation x 2</li> </ul> |
| 3. People and Environmental Issues | 25%    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People and Biosphere</li> <li>Forest under Threat</li> <li>Consuming Energy Resources</li> </ul>                 |

## Calendar Schedule

| Term                           | Year 10                                                                                                 | Assessment                                       | Year 11                                                                                               | Assessment                               |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Autumn Term<br>Sept - Dec      | <b>Unit 1: Global Issues</b><br><br>- Development Dynamics<br>- Urbanising World                        | End of Module Test<br><br>Full Unit Test (PPE 1) | <b>Unit 3: People &amp; Environment Issues</b><br><br>- People and Biosphere<br>- Forest under Threat | End of Module Test                       |
| Spring Term<br>January – March | <b>Unit 2: UK Geographical Issues</b><br><br>- Evolving Human Landscape<br>- Geographical Investigation | End of Module Test                               | - Consuming Energy Resources<br><br>Revision                                                          | Module Test<br><br>Full Unit Test (PPE3) |
| Summer Term<br>April – July    | - Evolving Physical Landscape<br>- Geographical Investigation                                           | End of Module Test<br><br>Full Unit Test (PPE 2) | Revision                                                                                              |                                          |

At KS5, Geography becomes increasingly analytical and independent, preparing students for university and beyond. Our exam board is Edexcel.

Topics currently studied include:



- Plate tectonics and hazard management
- Water and carbon cycles
- Changing places and place identity
- Global systems and global governance
- Contemporary urban environments
- Resource security

Students also complete an independent geographical investigation (NEA), requiring data collection, research design, analysis and evaluation — a key preparation for higher education.



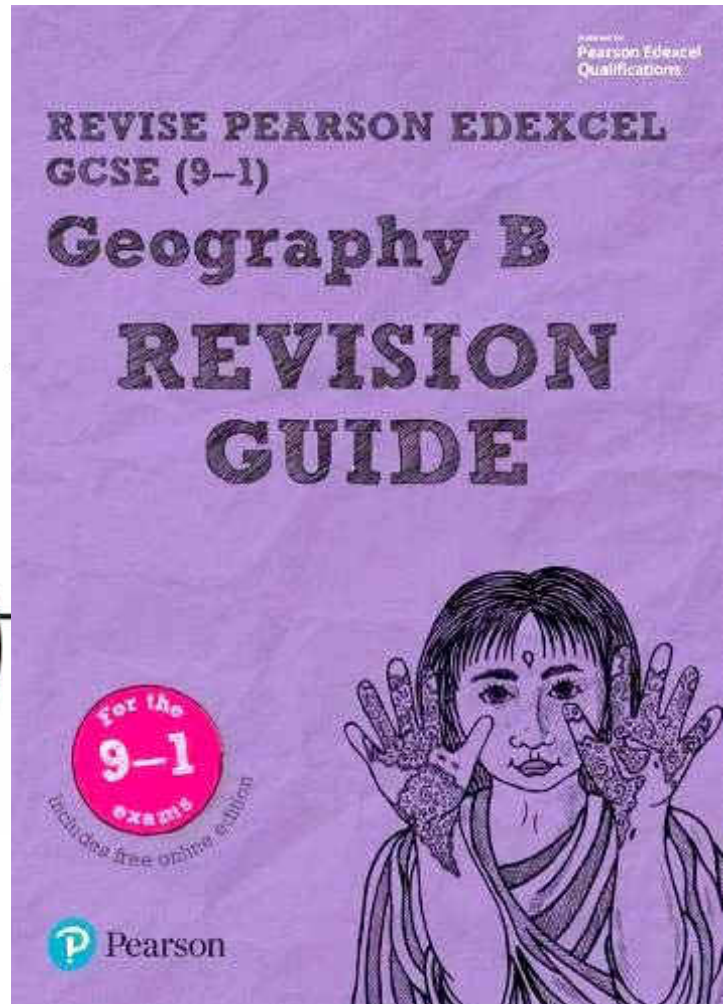
# Revision

## Year 10 Revision Guides

Students will receive this revision guide in Year 10 to support their KS4 studies. It is designed to help them focus on key knowledge and effectively target their revision.



Students may use any revision guide, provided it follows the Edexcel Specification B.



## Year 11 Revision and Intervention Support

To support Year 11 students in the lead-up to GCSE examinations, the Geography Department offers targeted revision interventions throughout the year.

### These currently run:

- Every Monday and Tuesday, 1:30 – 2:00pm in the Geography classroom.

### Sessions focus on:

- Core content recap.
- Exam technique and command words.
- Case study recall.

# Geography Beyond the Classroom: Trips and Fieldwork

Fieldwork is a vital part of geography learning, helping students bring theory to life.

## Current trips:

- GCSE river and urban fieldwork investigating Flood risk and deprivation
- A Level coastal fieldwork for NEA data collection

## Upcoming and Planned Trips:

- GCSE physical geography fieldwork (Rivers)
- Cornwall trip – All Year group

## Urban Fieldwork – Palmers Green

This fieldwork in Palmers Green investigated variations in deprivation and quality of life across different areas. Students collected primary data using Environmental Quality Surveys (EQS), shopping surveys and questionnaires with local residents to compare environmental conditions, access to services and perceptions of place.

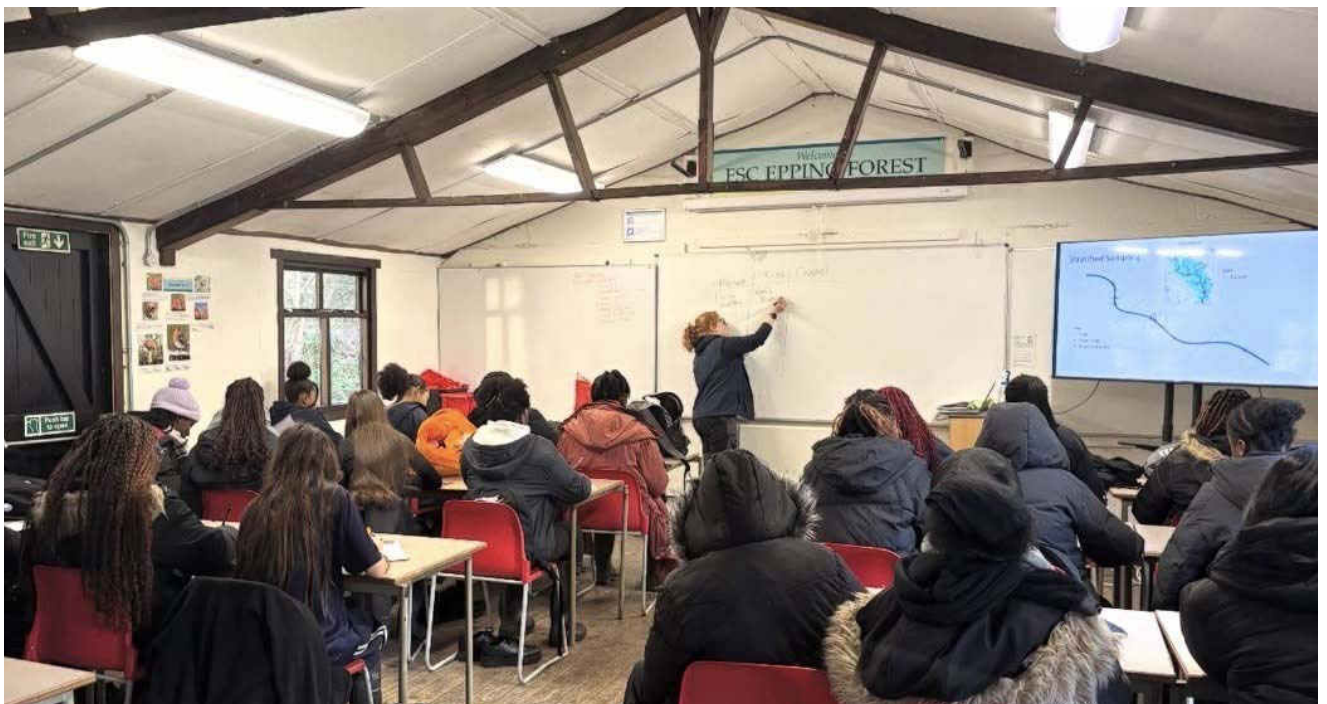




## Physical Fieldwork – Rivers, Epping Forest



This river fieldwork in Epping Forest investigated downstream changes along a river and assessed levels of flood risk to people and property. Students collected primary data by drawing field sketches and physically entering the river within a meander to measure depth, width and velocity. These measurements were used to evaluate how channel characteristics changed downstream and how they influenced flood risk.





We have been fortunate to explore destinations such as Iceland, Italy, Japan and even Spain for skiing — each journey offering a unique window into the world's diverse landscapes, cultures and traditions. These experiences have not only broadened our horizons but also deepened our appreciation for how people live across the globe. Stay tuned as we continue to seek out exciting adventures, both abroad and here in the UK, inspiring curiosity and discovery every step of the way. We are looking forward to visiting Cornwall in October and keep your eyes peeled for information about our next ski holiday!

## **Iceland**

In October 2022, we embarked on an unforgettable journey through Iceland, exploring one of the world's most dynamic volcanic landscapes. Our expedition focused on the country's dramatic volcanoes, erupting geysers, geothermal fields, and the remarkable divergent plate boundary where the North American and Eurasian tectonic plates slowly drift apart. We also visited striking black-sand coastal beaches framed by towering basalt columns, sculpted over centuries by volcanic activity and relentless Atlantic waves. Along the way, we encountered powerful waterfalls and breathtaking natural scenery that revealed the immense geological forces continually shaping this extraordinary island.





## Italy

From the ancient streets of Rome to the remarkably preserved ruins of Pompeii, this unforgettable city adventure explored the rich history, culture, and geography of Italy. The journey included a visit to the magnificent Vatican City, home to world-famous art and religious heritage, as well as the iconic Colosseum, where gladiators once battled before roaring crowds. Alongside discovering ancient civilizations and volcanic history, the group also experienced Italian culture firsthand by learning how to make authentic pizza, creating memories as rich as the country's fascinating past.





## Japan

A journey through Japan offered an exciting blend of modern innovation, global culture and urban geography. In Tokyo, the group explored the impressive Olympic venues developed for the 2020 Summer Olympics, discovering how the city combined sustainability, advanced transport systems and cutting-edge architecture to host a world-class international event. The trip also included a visit to Tokyo Disneyland, where entertainment, tourism and technology come together to create one of Japan's most popular attractions. From futuristic cityscapes to vibrant cultural experiences, the journey revealed the unique geographical character of this dynamic nation.





## Spain

Set within the breathtaking mountainous landscapes of Spain, this exciting ski adventure combined physical challenge with unforgettable cultural experiences. Over five days on the slopes in Cerler, the group explored snow-covered terrain while developing their skiing skills in one of Europe's stunning alpine environments. Beyond the pistes, the après-ski activities brought everyone together, from enjoying traditional churros nights and pizza evenings to relaxing walks through the local town. The trip concluded with a certificate celebration, marking both achievement and teamwork. Surrounded by dramatic mountain scenery, the experience offered the perfect balance of adventure, geography and fun.





## Insight into Student Work – Years 7, 8 & 9

A journey through Japan offered an exciting blend of modern innovation, global culture and urban geography. In Tokyo, the group explored the impressive Olympic venues developed for the 2020 Summer Olympics, discovering how the city combined sustainability, advanced transport systems and cutting-edge architecture to host a world-class international event. The trip also included a visit to Tokyo Disneyland, where entertainment, tourism and technology come together to create one of Japan's most popular attractions. From futuristic cityscapes to vibrant cultural experiences, the journey revealed the unique geographical character of this dynamic nation.



Following their exploration of how waterfalls are formed and shaped over time, students brought their geographical learning to life by creating impressive waterfall models. Through their studies, they developed an understanding of erosion, weathering, and the processes that create dramatic river landscapes. Using a variety of materials and plenty of creativity, the students produced detailed and imaginative models that clearly demonstrated the formation and features of waterfalls. Their work reflected excellent geographical knowledge, careful planning, and great enthusiasm, resulting in a fantastic display of learning and creativity.

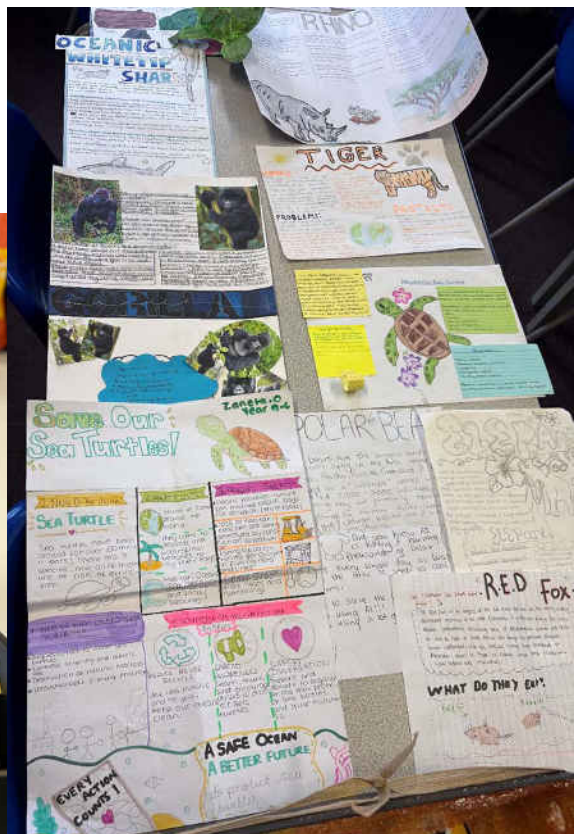




Year 8 students took on the role of news readers, delivering live reports from a studio setting on the UK's introduction of a one-child policy. As part of the activity, pupils created and performed role plays, incorporating interviews with witnesses to explore and present the implications of the policy. They particularly enjoyed using props to enhance their performances and bring their reports to life.



To celebrate the 100th birthday of legendary naturalist and broadcaster David Attenborough, our Year 9 group embarked on a creative geography project exploring endangered and extinct animals from around the world. Pupils researched species under threat, discovering the impact of climate change, habitat loss and human activity on wildlife populations. Using their findings, they designed impressive posters and detailed models to raise awareness and inspire action. From majestic tigers and sea turtles to the sadly extinct dodo, the project highlighted both the beauty of our planet's biodiversity and the importance of protecting it for future generations. Students also completed powerpoint presentations on how people and animals have adapted to life in the Arctic and the challenges they now face due to Global Warming.





## Geography in the News

Geography helps us understand how places, people, resources and environments are connected across the world. Many stories in the news today are linked to geography. For example, the current Iran conflict shows how important location can be. Iran is close to the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow sea route through which a large amount of the world's oil is transported. Problems in this area can affect fuel prices, trade and transport around the world.



Geography helps us understand how places, people, resources and environments are connected across the world. Many stories in the news today are linked to geography. For example, the current Iran conflict shows how important location can be.

Iran is close to the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow sea route through which a large amount of the world's oil is transported. Problems in this area can affect fuel prices, trade and transport around the world.

Other geographical issues in the news include climate change, migration and natural disasters. Heatwaves, flooding and droughts are becoming more common in many countries because of rising global temperatures. Some people are forced to leave their homes because of war, flooding or lack of food and water.



Geography also helps us understand global trade, as countries depend on shipping routes, ports and resources from other parts of the world. By studying geography, students can better understand how events in one place can have effects across the whole planet.



# Earth Day Competition

In celebration of Earth Day on 22nd April, students across all Year groups enthusiastically took part in our exciting Earth Day Photography Competition. Students were invited to capture the beauty of nature through photographs, and we were amazed by the creativity, effort and appreciation for the environment shown in every entry. From stunning landscapes to close-up images of wildlife and plants, the competition highlighted the incredible natural world around us.



**Congratulations to our Prize Winners:**

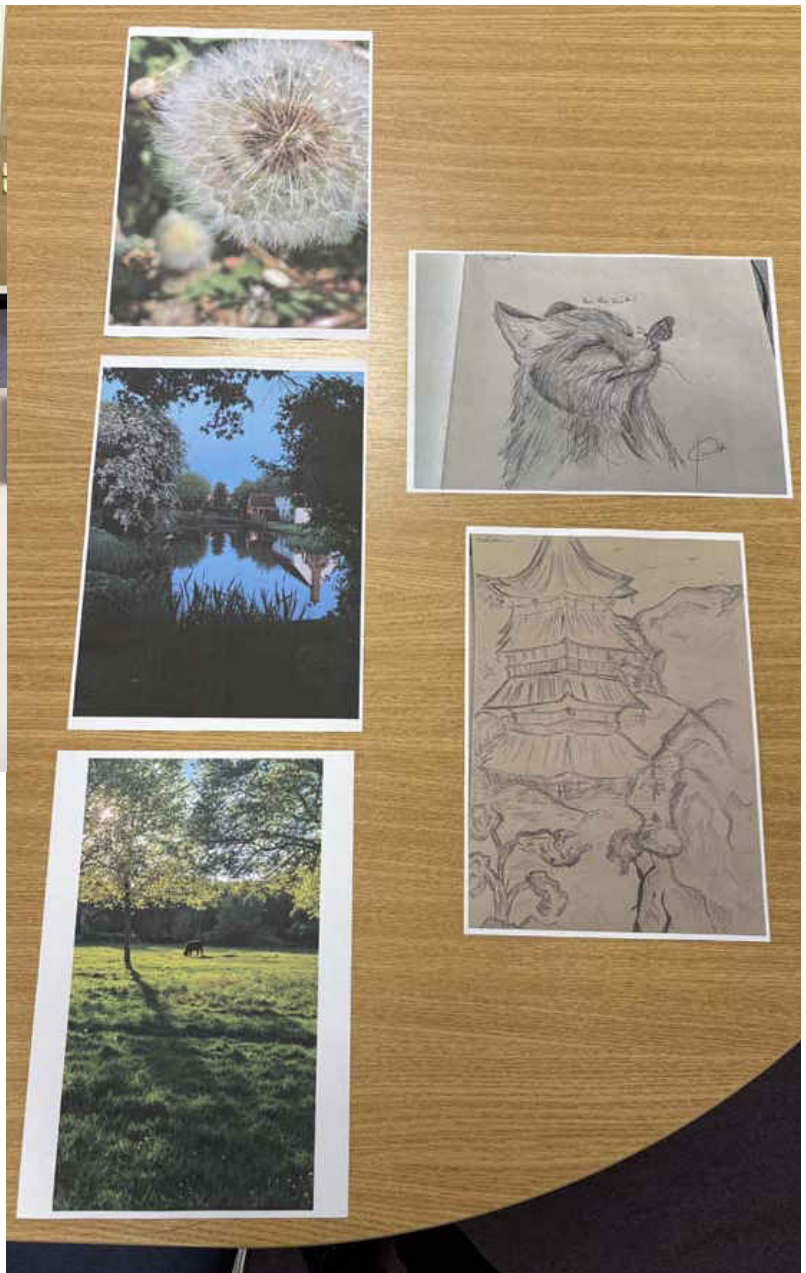
**1st Place – Zaneta, Year 7**

**2nd Place – Niamh, Year 9**

**3rd Place – Natalia, Year 10**



A special shout out also goes to the students who submitted beautiful drawings inspired by nature. Their artistic talent and attention to detail were truly impressive. In particular, two students —Chukwudumebi (Year 9) and Reid (Year 7) — produced exceptional artwork and were awarded special prizes in recognition of their outstanding creativity and effort. Well done to everyone who participated and helped make our Earth Day celebrations such a success!





## Eco-Warriors: Geography in Action



**Geography isn't just about understanding the world — it's about shaping it for the better. Our Eco-Warriors initiative highlights the inspiring work our students undertake every Wednesday to create a more sustainable learning environment. A key focus of this work is increasing biodiversity across our school grounds.**

Since the club began, we've already seen encouraging progress: blue tits have taken up residence in our birdhouses, and a dunno has been spotted on site. In addition, there has been a noticeable rise in insects, including bees and butterflies, helping to support a thriving ecosystem. A special highlight this term has been the stunning mural, created with the guidance of our talented Artist-in-Residence, Sara Kelly. This vibrant artwork adds colour and creativity to our campus, celebrating the spirit of environmental action.

In addition, we've established an exciting collaboration with a school in South Africa. This partnership focuses on improving sustainability and building strong global connections — sharing ideas and learning from each other to make a positive impact worldwide.







Our Year 9 Eco-Warriors represented Enfield Borough at a prestigious sustainability conference hosted by North London Waste Authority (NLWA). The event brought together young minds passionate about tackling environmental challenges. Competing against other schools from across the borough, our team impressed everyone with their innovative solutions to North London's waste problems. They showcased creativity, teamwork, and determination — and their hard work paid off! They were crowned winners of the top prize, £500. We couldn't be prouder of their commitment to making a difference for our planet.

## **How to Be an Eco-Warrior!**

Here are some simple yet powerful actions that will improve your local environment:

**Recycle** — Know what goes where! Paper, cardboard, plastic bottles, tins, and cans can all be recycled if they're clean. Small actions reduce landfill and lower carbon emissions.

**Reuse** — From refillable water bottles to second hand clothes, reuse saves resources and money. Before throwing it away, ask:

- Can it be reused?
- Can it be donated?
- Can it be repurposed?

**Reduce** — The most powerful of the three Rs. Buying less and choosing wisely helps protect ecosystems worldwide:

- Reduce single use plastics
- Reduce food waste
- Reduce fast fashion

**Make an Impact** — Join our school Eco-Warriors, take part in campaigns or simply start conversations at home. **Small actions + lots of people = real change.**



The main Enfield recycling centre: [Barrowell Green Recycling Centre](#) (N21 3AU).

You must book an appointment online to visit in a vehicle (car or van).

Pedestrian access is allowed without an appointment.

The site is closed on Mondays.



# Know Your Local Parks & Green Spaces:

## 🌿 Nature On Your Doorstep 🌿

London is one of the greenest capital cities in the world, and our local area is packed with parks where geography and nature come alive. These spaces support biodiversity, community wellbeing and climate resilience — and many host exciting events and weekly parkrun runs.

### 🌳 ENFIELD 🌳

#### Grovelands Park

- Nature highlights: Large ornamental lake, mature woodland, ducks, swans, and seasonal wildflowers.
- **Parkrun** 🌐 every Saturday at 9:00am.
- A popular, scenic 5km route with hills and lakeside views.

#### Pymmes Park

- Nature highlights: Grassland, landscaped gardens, river channels, mature trees.
- Parkrun: Pymmes Parkrun every Saturday.

### 🌿 PONDERS END 🌿

#### Ponders End Park

- Nature highlights: Open meadows, trees, playground areas, green walking routes.
- Community activities: Litter picking events, fitness activities.
- A peaceful green space ideal for local exploration and wellbeing.

#### Lee Valley / King George V Reservoir

- Nature highlights: Wetlands, birdlife, waterways.
- Great for: Birdwatching, nature walks, geography field sketches.

### 🌳 EDMONTON 🌳

#### Pymmes Park

- Nature highlights: Mature trees, open grassland, river features.
- Parkrun: Pymmes parkrun every Saturday.

#### Montagu Recreation Ground

- Nature highlights: Urban green space, playing fields, trees.

### 🌿 PALMERS GREEN 🌿

#### Broomfield Park

- Nature highlights: Lakes, woodland, gardens, birds, insects.
- Special feature: Restoration of lakes and biodiversity areas. A fantastic space for ecosystems and sustainability learning.

### 🌿 TOTTENHAM 🌿

#### Lordship Recreation Ground

- Nature highlights: Meadows, wetlands, wildlife areas, trees.
- Eco features: Community eco hub and sustainability projects.
- Parkrun: Lordship Rec Parkrun every Saturday at 9:00am.

#### Tottenham Marshes

- Nature highlights: Wild grasslands, river habitats, birds, insects.
- Great for: Studying urban ecology and floodplains.

## What is Parkrun?

<https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/>

Parkrun is a free, weekly 5km run or walk, open to all abilities:

- Takes place every Saturday at 9:00am or Sunday at 9:00am for Junior Parkrun (4-14 year olds, Enfield Town Park).
- Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate.
- Build fitness while enjoying nature and community spaces. Just download the free app and join in.



# What's Going On over Summer?

## Nature and Wildlife Events in London

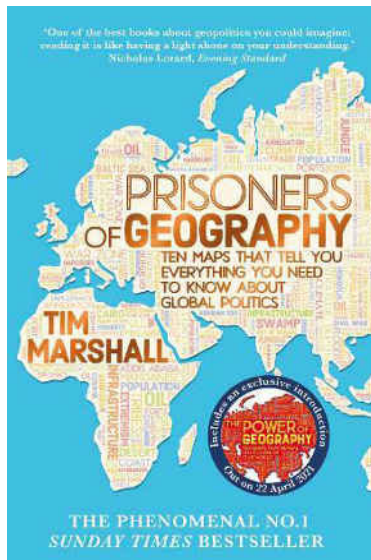
- **London Wildlife Trust Summer Events:**  
Explore Sydenham Hill Wood, Woodberry Wetlands, and Walthamstow Wetlands with guided nature walks, bird spotting and family-friendly nature sessions.
- **Greenwich Park Summer Nature Roadshows:**  
Free, drop-in activities including a detective trail, mini-museum and nature-inspired games.
- **Natural History Museum Gardens & Exhibitions:**  
Explore the Evolution Garden, see *Our Story with David Attenborough*, and visit free, world-class exhibitions on the natural world.
- **Richmond Summer Wildlife Trail:**  
A free, family-friendly trail to explore Richmond's wildlife, featuring a map and sticker rewards.
- **London Happier Outdoors Festival:**  
An annual event featuring nature walks, gardening sessions and nature journaling in London's green space.



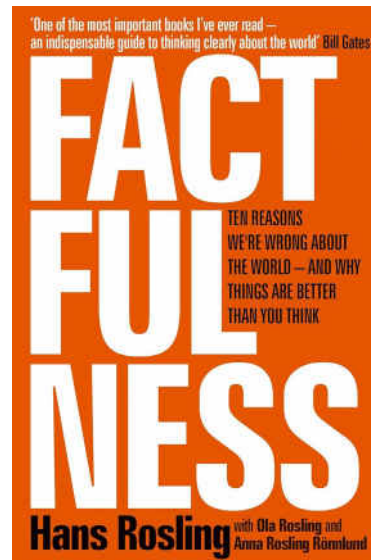
For help/ideas of what to do in and around London over the summer:  
<https://secretldn.com/free-things-to-do-london/>



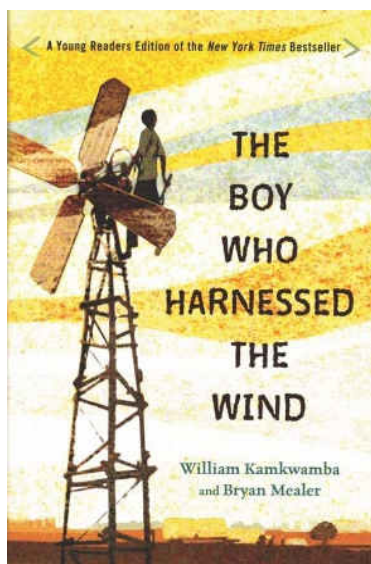
## Engaging Real-World Geography Reads: Recommendations for Aspiring Geographers



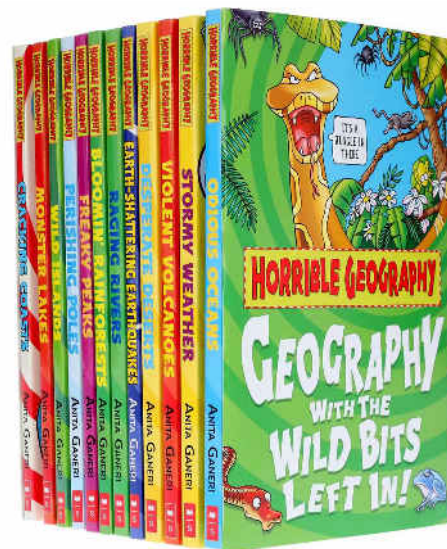
**Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall** - Explains how physical geography shapes global politics — very popular in schools because it connects geography to real-world events.



**Factfulness by Hans Rosling** - A new thinking habit that will change the way you see the world and empower you to respond to future challenges and opportunities.



**The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer** - A true story showing how environment, resources, and geography affect people's lives — great for human geography themes.



**Horrible Geography by Anita Ganeri** - These books explore dramatic, dangerous topics like violent volcanoes and wild islands using humorous text, cartoons and exciting, often nauseating, facts.



# Country Review A-Z:

## Building Global Understanding One Letter at a Time

### A is for Albania – Fun Facts!



- **European Surprise:** Albania is in Southeast Europe, tucked between mountains and the sparkling Adriatic and Ionian Seas.
- **Land of Extremes:** It has towering mountains, fast flowing rivers and long coastlines — all in a relatively small country!
- **Tourism on the Rise:** Once less visited, Albania is becoming a popular travel destination thanks to its beaches, history and natural beauty.
- **Life on the Move:** Many people are moving from rural areas to cities, changing how towns and communities grow.
- **Balancing Act:** Albania faces challenges around development and sustainability as it grows its economy while protecting its landscapes.



**NEXT TIME: B for Bangladesh**



## Lost & Found: A Geography Wordsearch



**Find these words!**

Biodiversity

CarbonNeutral

Circulation

Watershed

Deforestation

Ecosystems

Geothermal

Hydrosphere

Landforms

Mitigation

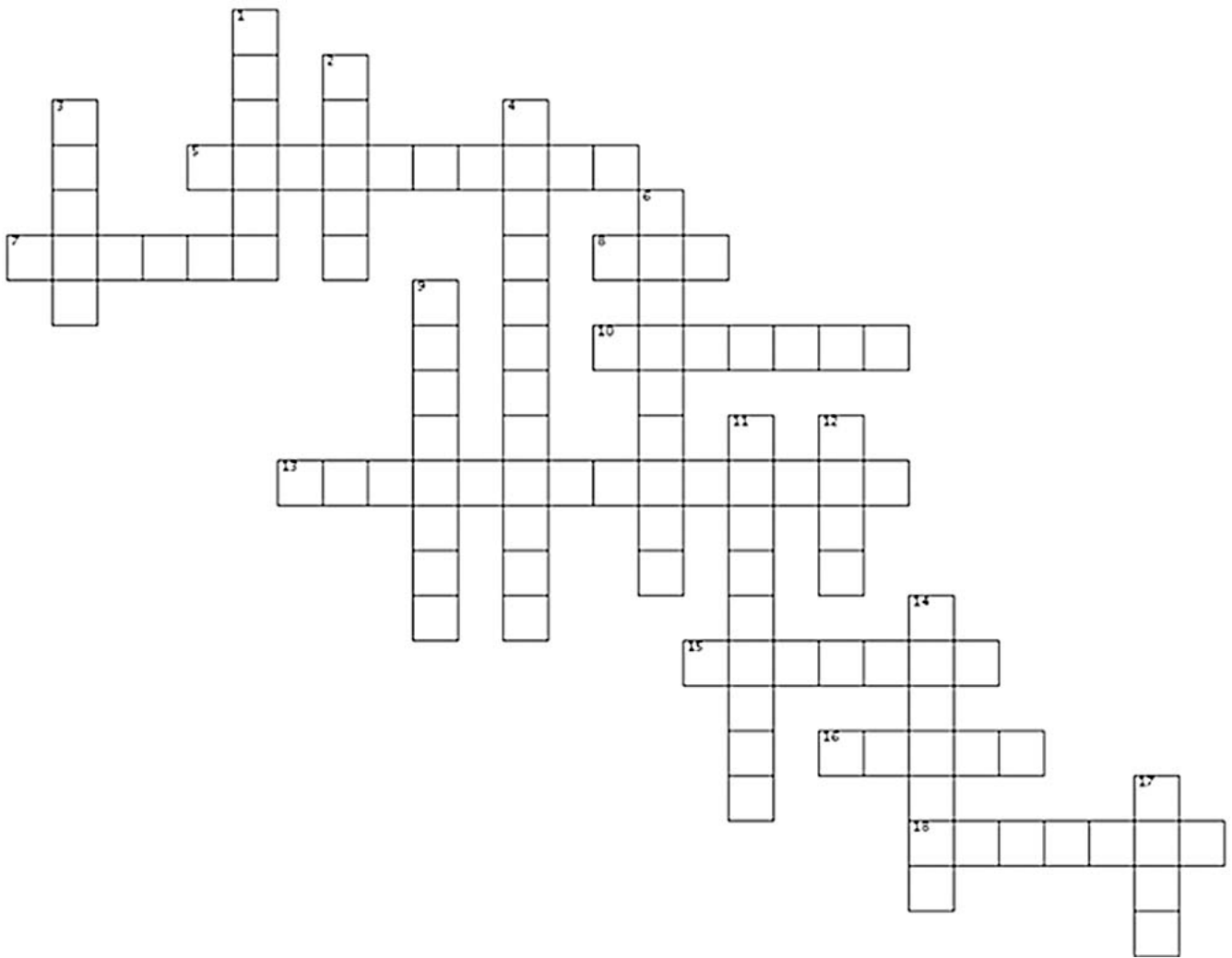
Photosynthesis

Renewables

Topography



# Crossed Paths: A Geo Puzzle



## Clues

### Across

- 5. A group of plants growing close together
- 7. Land that is always very dry and sandy
- 8. Frozen water found at the Earth's poles
- 10. A place where a river meets the sea
- 13. The process by which plants make their own food
- 15. A place where animals live
- 16. A long area of land next to the sea
- 18. Something in nature that is not made by humans

### Down

- 1. A large area of land covered in trees
- 2. A large body of salt water
- 3. A natural flowing watercourse
- 4. The variety of plants and animals in an area
- 6. An area where plants and animals depend on each other
- 9. A high area of land, higher than a hill
- 11. The study of the Earth and its features
- 12. Moving air



# **The World's Natural Wonders: The Great Barrier Reef**

***The Largest Living Organism on Earth!***



The Great Barrier Reef, located off the coast of Queensland, Australia, is the Earth's largest living structure. Spanning 133,000 square miles, this colossal, interconnected network of around 2,900 individual reefs is so vast that it is the only collective organism that can be seen from spacecraft orbiting the Earth. This vibrant ecosystem is made up of billions of coral polyps and supports a massive diversity of marine life, including 1,500+ species of fish and 400 types of coral. It functions as a vibrant, highly diverse underwater metropolis.

While reefs in the region date back roughly half a million years, the modern structure took its shape about 10,000 years ago after the last ice age.



**ST. ANNE'S  
CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL**

The Great Barrier Reef is a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site that serves as an essential subject for global scientific research. Human activities significantly threaten the Great Barrier Reef through climate change, agricultural runoff, coastal development, and overfishing.

Many organisations are working tirelessly to save the reef for future generations.

**[www.st-annes.enfield.sch.uk](http://www.st-annes.enfield.sch.uk)  
[x.com/StAnnes\\_N13](http://x.com/StAnnes_N13)  
Tel: 020 8886 2165**