

# Primary newsbites

September 2022



*You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.  
Maya Angelou*

Welcome to **Primary Newsbites** for September 2022, aimed at providing ideas and inspiration for primary geography colleagues wherever you are teaching. Each entry will have a code or tag:

e.g. 0922.01 is September 2022 and item number 1.

Please let us know which items you find the most helpful and useful and we will endeavour to include similar features in future issues.

Recent news has, of course, dominated the headlines, and we will have an extra Bank Holiday on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. We sincerely hope the new academic year has started smoothly for you all.

***Compiled by Alan Parkinson and Emma Espley.***

**0922.01: We do like to be beside the (Devon) seaside.**

Along with many thousands of others, Alan headed for Devon this summer to spend time by the seaside and enjoy the River Exe. The seaside and our waterways are currently very much in the media because of the frequent discharges of sewage into rivers and onto beaches. While we might not dwell on this too much in lessons, the eventual destination of our waste is not something we can ignore. Any study of the water cycle should also mention our own use of water in the home, and the activities which make up most of our daily water usage.

**World Toilet Day** is on 19<sup>th</sup> November each year, and the official site has a number of resources to help youngsters understand the different experiences of people around the world when it comes to sanitation. These can affect young girls in particular, so this is an area for discussion when it comes to equality.

<https://www.worldtoilet.org/>

There are some coastal images that Alan took over the summer which you can use for free in presentations and elsewhere. You'll find them on Alan's Flickr page in an album called **Beside the Seaside**:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/geographypages/albums/72177720301292322>

**Flickr** is a photo-sharing site, which offers free accounts where you can upload your photos to store and share them. Why not set up some accounts for your own school and encourage sharing of images?

<https://www.flickr.com/>

Alan also uses the free **Snapseed** app to edit the images. This is available for iOS and Android devices from the appropriate app store and can also be downloaded onto PCs. It can be used to prepare your images for sharing, or turn them into black and white or cartoon-style images.

<https://snapseed.online/>



Photos can also be edited using the **Prisma** app, which has a range of filters. There are some interesting discussions to be had with students about the use of images, and how much they trust that it is real and has not been edited in some way. More details here: <https://prisma-ai.com/>

**Canva** is an app, which allows you to create postcards, logos and other images for your presentations, or to use with pupils. Alan created the image below using the templates in Canva, for example.

If you sign up for Canva with a school email, it will be verified, and you will be able to access a free education account. Go to <https://www.canva.com/> and click the Education tab to find out more.



### **0922:02: National Fieldwork Week 2022**

The Geographical Association's National Fieldwork Week was held between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2022.

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

The aim was to spend some time outside during the week, and to share the work that was carried out. Fieldwork has been described as the glue that holds our subject together. It's very important to take students outside as often as possible to develop certain skills, and provide opportunities for critically observing our surroundings.

Thanks to the **Field Studies Council** for joining in with the event, and sharing two primary activities, which can be used either on the school site or in the local area, such as a nearby High Street. Access them here:

<https://www.field-studies-council.org/resources/new-resources/>

As part of the resources created by the Geographical Association's Early Years and Primary Committee, a useful set of primary-focussed resources was developed. These would be well suited to those living in the south west of England because of the content of several of the units.

These can be viewed below and you can link through to the pages where the resources are hosted.

## Developed activities for Primary

- [How green is my area activity](#)
- [Visiting a farm activity](#)
- [Royal celebrations activity 1](#)
- [Royal celebrations activity 2](#)
- [Use of rocks activity](#)
- [Playground activity](#)
- [Where shall we go for a picnic](#)
- [12 wonders of your area](#)

The final activity has been developed by Sarah Jones and Rich Hatwood in the area around their school.

You can read more about the idea of a local '12 wonders' in an article in the Geographical Association's *Primary Geography* journal if you are a subscriber. Access it here:

<https://www.geography.org.uk/Journal-Issue/9df30d03-4a48-4de8-8b7d-029a645640ba>

### 0922.03: Cloud Appreciation Society



The Cloud Appreciation Society was founded by Gavin Pretor-Pinney in 2005 to celebrate the clouds above us, which have brought us much needed rain after

the dry summer we have had in many parts of the UK. Alan is member #719 of the Cloud Appreciation Society. This year, there is a special event being organised, which you may want to become involved with. For the first time, the Cloud Appreciation Society is launching **Cloud Appreciation Day** on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September**.

This will be an internationally recognized day when people around the world are encouraged to spend a few moments appreciating the beauty of the sky. A new Memory Cloud Atlas will be launched as a place where anyone can share an image of their sky, taken on the day, and write or record some words about how it makes them feel. The Memory Cloud Atlas will serve as a snapshot on a single day of our collective views about the most dynamic, evocative and accessible part of nature: the sky.

Find out more about the Society, and the plans for Friday 16th September here:

<https://cloudappreciationsociety.org/cloud-appreciation-day-2022/>

There are also free resources called the Cloud Appreciation Pack:

<https://cloudappreciationsociety.org/cloud-appreciation-pack/>

The SW peninsula often witnesses the weather experienced in other parts of the country first since air masses approach from the south west.

**0922.04: Cornish Dictionary Website**

<https://www.cornishdictionary.org.uk/>



We decided to call the newsletter Peninsula, but we could also have named it the **konna tir** (as this is the Cornish term for the landmark).

Find out some more Cornish words using the online dictionary, particularly those that are used in the geography classroom

e.g. river is **dowr** in Cornish

## **0922.05: The Geographical Association's Sheila Jones Legacy Fund**

Would you like to organise a networking event, but need some funds to get it off the ground, perhaps to pay for refreshments and resources?

A new source of funds has been released as part of a legacy left to the Geographical Association by the estate of the late Sheila Jones.

Sheila Jones was the first female teacher to be President of the Geographical Association in 1975. The money that she left as a legacy has been split up into £100 chunks, and the first 100 eligible requests for funding will receive some money.

You can find out more about the money and the procedure for applying here: <https://www.geography.org.uk/Announcements-and-updates/sheila-jones-legacy-fund>

You can also read more about Sheila herself here. She was an inspirational teacher, who spent her career working in and around the Bristol area, and sadly passed away in 2021.

<https://gapresidents.blogspot.com/2020/08/1975-miss-sheila-m-jones.html>

## **0922.06: The Royal Geographical Society's Young Geographer of the Year Competition 2022**

You will need to act quickly on this, as entries for the competition need to be 'handed in' digitally by **3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**.

Here is the background information to this year's competition theme from the Royal Geographical Society:

### ***Where, how and why***

Throughout the pandemic our ability to travel near or far was severely limited. This year, to encourage young people to widen their geographical horizons, whether locally or much further afield, the Society is asking pupils where, how and why.

Where? : Where might you want to travel to? We'd like you to give a geographical overview of the place you'd like to visit. It doesn't matter if the place is local to you or much further afield, we'd like you to give its geographical overview and share your understanding of its key physical and human features.

How? : How would you get there and what reasons might you give for the type/s of transport you might use? Is the place a short walk away or somewhere that would require transport to take you beyond the UK?

Why? : What makes this place geographically interesting, important or meaningful to you?

For KS2 students, the entry is an A3 poster, which can be created digitally or on paper. There are prizes available for winners. It would be lovely to see more entries from state schools this year. Don't be put off by the title of the competition - there is no reason why it shouldn't be a student from your school.

For information on how to enter the competition, go here:

<https://www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/young-geographer-of-the-year/2022-competition/>

### Twitter suggestions

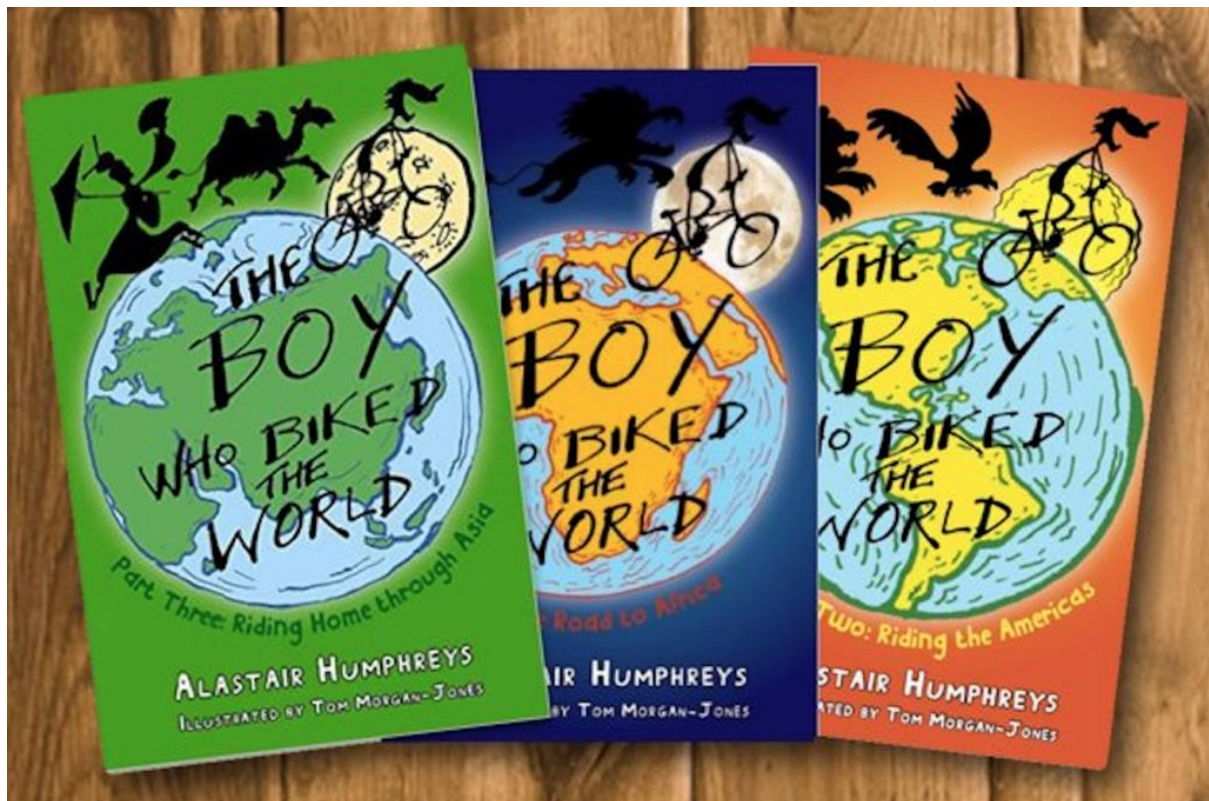
In each issue of Primary Newsbites, we will feature suggestions for accounts to follow that have a focus on primary geography.

Name of account	Who is it?	What do they tweet about?
@EYPPCGA	The GA's Early Years and Primary Phase Committee	Plenty of support for primary geographers, including a YouTube channel known as GeogLive! and which hosts videos of online CPD sessions for primary colleagues: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgzLz6CzszDS1xZlf3ZgzQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgzLz6CzszDS1xZlf3ZgzQ</a>
@TotalGeography	Anthony Barlow - Geography lecturer at Roehampton University and former Primary teacher	Plenty of support for primary geographers. Anthony has written useful books and articles. A recent article for Teachwire focussed on free geography tools for teaching map skills. Anthony's article can be read here: <a href="https://www.teachwire.net/news/map-skills-ks1-ks2-google/">https://www.teachwire.net/news/map-skills-ks1-ks2-google/</a>
@CloudAppSoc	The Cloud Appreciation Society	A range of resources to encourage people to look up at the sky.

*Please let us know of any Twitter accounts we should be featuring here, or other useful social media accounts that you use for inspiration.*

### Reading list

Each month, we will suggest a book which includes some geographical themes. We will aim to choose a book that also has a SW focus. The first one, however, has a global focus, and it's not just one book, but three. It's been available for some time now, and many of you may be familiar with it.



There are now teaching resources which go along with the book.

<https://alastairhumphreys.com/teaching-resources-for-the-boy-who-biked-the-world-books>

#### BOOK 1

- [The Boy Who Biked The World Part 1 Africa 7-9 – VIPERS Discussion Guide](#)
- [The Boy Who Biked The World Part 1 Africa 7-9 – Unit Overview](#)
- [The Boy Who Biked The World Part 1 Africa 7-9 – Teaching Resources](#)
- [The Boy Who Biked The World Part 1 Africa 7-9 – Lesson Planning](#)

#### BOOK 2

- [The Boy Who Biked The World Part 2 7-9 – VIPERS Discussion Guide](#)
- [The Boy Who Biked The World Part 2 7-9 – Unit Overview](#)
- [The Boy Who Biked The World Part 2 7-9 – Teaching Resources](#)
- [The Boy Who Biked The World Part 2 7-9 – Lesson Planning](#)

#### BOOK 3

- [The Boy Who Biked The World Part 3 Asia 7-9 – VIPERS Discussion Guide](#)
- [The Boy Who Biked The World Part 3 Asia 7-9 – Unit Overview](#)
- [The Boy Who Biked The World Part 3 Asia 7-9 – Teaching Resources](#)
- [The Boy Who Biked The World Part 3 Asia 7-9 – Lesson Planning](#)

You might also be interested in reading Al's new book, which is entitled 'The girl who rowed the ocean'.

<https://alastairhumphreys.com/product/the-girl-who-rowed-the-ocean/>



## **What's On**

Within each issue of Primary Newsbites, we will share details of at least one event that we think you may find interesting.

Emma Espley is presenting a new series of webinars for the Geographical Association, which focus on the very helpful downloadable guides called 'In the Know'. There are six sessions in total, each one running from 3.30 – 4.30pm. Each session will focus on one core element of primary phase geography.

### **29 September: Session 1 – Climate, biomes and vegetation belts**

Learn about the relationship between weather and climate and how they affect the habitats of different animals and plants. Consider the interconnections between the climate, the distribution and diversity of the life it generates, and the effects humans are having at all levels.

### **6 October: Session 2 – Rivers and the water cycle**

Learn about the source of our rivers, whether originating from melting glaciers or water held in the ground, as water is collected into tiny streams that grow and combine as they travel downhill. Find out about other aspects of the water (hydrological) cycle and the processes and, often dynamic, landscapes that are both part of the cause and effect of the cycle.

### **13 October: Session 3 – Mountains and volcanoes**

Learn about the soaring grandeur of mountains and the elemental power of volcanoes, how they might act as tourist attractions, national symbols, a country's border or become the source of its mineral wealth. They can be inspirational and spiritual and yet provide a wealth of challenges to all life, human, plant and animal, who wish to explore and settle within their proximity.

### **20 October: Session 4 – Latitude, longitude, day and night**

Learn how time works through night and day and across different places around the globe. Consider where to start when teaching about longitude, latitude and how the position of Earth in space affects time.

### **3 November Session 5 – Settlements**

Learn about how settlements, of all shapes and sizes, often share a range of characteristics that are influenced by similarities in the landscape, the background or history shaping a settlement over time, and the resources that influence its growth. There are reasons why settlements developed as, and where, they did: take time to explore the history of place to see how settlements might have developed and changed over time.

### **10 November Session 6 – Grid references and map symbols**

Learn how the many types of maps in use all around us communicate information, spatially and pictorially, about a particular area, from a theme park to a country and even the entire universe. Build your understanding of direction and compass points, distance and scale, features, map symbols and grid references.

Details on how to book are available here:

<https://www.geography.org.uk/events/in-the-know-webinar-series/15254?OcclD=20745>

## **Listen In**

In each issue, we will also share details of a podcast that you might find interesting to listen to on your commute to work perhaps?

**The National Trust** has released a series of walking podcasts. Routes added so far include a walk up Box Hill, a ramble through Wicken Fen in East Anglia, and a walk to Kinder Scout in the Peak District, with the story of the famous mass trespass of 1932, which helped open up such land to the public.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/walking-podcasts-playlist>

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If you have an idea that you'd like to contribute, please get in touch and tell us more via Twitter @GeoBlogs or email: [aparkinson@gmail.com](mailto:aparkinson@gmail.com)

The deadline for Issue 2 is the 28<sup>th</sup> of September 2022.

***We'd love to showcase your work in future issues as well.***