**Geography UN-PLUGGED Optional Home Learning**

We are mindful of the fact that the internet’s infrastructure will face unprecedented demand with so many people streaming videos, contacting family and doing work online. If your router gives up or starts running slow, here are a few **un-plugged** geographical activities you can do instead, which will help develop your knowledge and skills in geography, and can also be done with family members.

Switch off, and tune in to these ideas.

1. We hope you have an **Atlas** in your house. Take time to explore a continent and learn the key countries and how they relate to each other. If all you have access to is a road atlas, explore the local area, and learn which towns and cities surround you. Talk to your family about your favourite places, and plan a ‘road trip’ in the UK for the summer with some activities and places you can visit.
2. If you have an **Ordnance Survey** map in your house, take a look at the key and learn some of the important map symbols close to your house. Practice the 4 and 6 figure grid references which are so important in identifying where you are. If it’s possible, do a walk in the area close to where you live - if not, plan one which you will do when you can. If you can, print off a map of the local area in advance.
3. Practice creating what is called a **field sketch**. This could be the view out of a window of your house. Add on any physical or human geography features that you can see; the materials that things are made of; types of vegetation and infrastructure e.g. aerials, wires and transport routes.
4. Dig out an old photo album or browse through the photos on your mobile phone. Choose one picture which shows a landscape (with people or otherwise) that has happy memories for you. Create a new version of it using any art technique of your choice e.g. collage, pencil crayons or Pro-markers, pencil sketch. Get the rest of the family involved.
5. Write the letters A-Z on a piece of paper, and try to come up with an example of each of the following which starts with that letter - one for each letter if you can: countries, cities, rivers, mountains. What other categories can you think of?
6. Take a look at the foods you have in your house and record the item and the country which they are from. Produce a map showing how your food items connect you with the rest of the world. If you have items which are suitable for a food bank, keep them separate and drop them off when you are next able to. Feel free to work out food miles as well.
7. Do the same activity above, but this time with the clothes in your drawers and wardrobe. Create a couple of graphs too, showing the brands you have bought as well as the countries in which they are made. While you are completing this activity, sort out some clothes you no longer wear or have grown out of to donate to charity when you are next able to. How might you change your clothes-buying habits?
8. Watch a film which has a geographical theme and write a review of it.
9. Read a book from your shelves which has a geographical theme and write a review of it. Create a new version of the book cover which captures the main ideas in the book using an art technique of your choice.
10. Write an article on some area of geography you are particularly interested in. In the summer term we are hoping to put together a geography magazine based on student contributions, so we are looking for articles, images and other suitable content.

Stay safe. We look forward to seeing you back again as soon as we can return and carry on exploring the world together.

**RGS Geography Department, March 2020**