

AS LEVEL GEOGRAPHY: TRANSITION MATERIALS

Recommended Pre-Reading

General:

Bill Bryson (2003): '*A Short History of Nearly Everything*'. Penguin; London. Available at Croydon Libraries (Purley, Selsdon).

Harm de Blij (2012): '*Why Geography Matters, More than Ever*'. Oxford University Press: Oxford.

Physical Geography:

David Waugh (2000): '*Geography: An Integrated Approach*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Central). * Chapters 6 and 8.

David Waugh (1994): '*The New Wider World*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Central; Asburton). *Chapter 18.

Paul Guinness and Garrett Nagle (1999): '*Advanced Geography: Concepts and Cases*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Central). *Chapters 2 and 6.

Graham Thompson (1998): '*An Introduction to Physical Geology*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Central).

Nigel Lawson (2008): '*An Appeal to Reason: A cool look at Global Warming*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Thornton Heath).

Joseph Holden (2005): '*An Introduction to Physical Geography and the Environment*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Central). *Chapter 17.

Neil Roberts (2000): '*The Holocene: An Environmental History*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Central). *Chapters 1, 2, 7 and 8.

Human Geography:

David Held (2000): '*A Globalizing World? Culture, Economics, Politics*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Central). *All chapters

David Waugh (2000): '*Geography: An Integrated Approach*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Central). * Chapters 15 and 19

David Waugh (1994): '*The New Wider World*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Central; Asburton). *Chapters 4-6, and 9.

Paul Guinness and Garrett Nagle (1999): '*Advanced Geography: Concepts and Cases*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Central). *Chapters 12-15, 18-19 and 21.

Jane Seymour (2000): '*Poverty in Plenty: A Human Development Report for the UK*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Central).

Stephen Emmot (2012): '*10 Billion*'. Available at Croydon Libraries (Central). All chapters.

Mike Davis (2006): 'Fear and Money in Dubai'. *New Left Review*. **41** (Sept/Oct). Available online: <https://lebbeuswoods.files.wordpress.com/2008/03/mike-davis-on-dubai.pdf>

Matthew Gandy (2013): 'Where does the city end?' Available online: http://www.matthewgandy.org/datalive/downloadfiles/AD_Where.pdf

Matthew Gandy (2013): 'Neo-Bankside'. Available online: http://www.matthewgandy.org/datalive/downloadfiles/AD_Where.pdf

Recommended Media

Documentaries and Movies:

'An Inconvenient Truth: Global Warming'. DVD available at Croydon Libraries (South Norwood).

'Slumdog Millionaire'. DVD available at Croydon Libraries (New Addington, Sanderstead and Shirley).

'Brassed Off'. DVD available at Croydon Libraries (Shirley).

Podcasts:

Skylines, the CityMetric podcast (<http://www.citymetric.com/content/skylines-podcast>).

Particularly episodes: 9 – 'Genius Loci'; 7 – 'Transports of Delight'; 5 – 'One in Five'.

School of Geography and Environment podcasts, University of Oxford. (<https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/school-geography-and-environment-podcasts>)

Particularly episode 5.

London School of Economics (School of Geography).

(<http://www.lse.ac.uk/geographyAndEnvironment/Events/events.aspx>)

TED Talks:

Hans and Ola Rosling: 'How not to be ignorant about the world'.

(http://www.ted.com/talks/hans_and_ola_rosling_how_not_to_be_ignorant_about_the_world)

Parag Khanna: 'How megacities are changing the map of the world'.

(http://www.ted.com/talks/parag_khanna_how_megacities_are_changing_the_map_of_the_world)

Alexander Betts: 'Our refugee system is failing. Here's how we can fix it'.

(http://www.ted.com/talks/alexander_betts_our_refugee_system_is_failing_here_s_how_we_can_fix_it)

Alice Bows-Larkin: 'We're too late to prevent climate change, here's how we adapt'.

(http://www.ted.com/talks/alice_bows_larkin_we_re_too_late_to_prevent_climate_change_here_s_how_we_adapt)

Garth Lenz: 'Images of beauty and devastation: the true cost of oil'.

(http://www.ted.com/talks/garth_lenz_images_of_beauty_and_devastation)

Recommended Summer Trips

- The Crystal – Sustainable Cities Exhibition (Royal Victoria Docks) – www.thecrystal.org
- Walking tour of Croydon on 'Edge Cities' (http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/edge-city-croydon?awc=3795_1468008593_bb7ede7d12ed33101b5b189f722c1128&campid=Affiliates_Central_Mem_AWIN_Standard&aff=78888). I will be going on one of these!

Preparatory Activity 1: Representations and metaphors of the city

Background Information:

Geographers, and others, have frequently employed metaphors as a tool for making sense of cities and city life. The metaphors used reveal our urban imaginations and thinking around the state of our city-spaces. There are five major metaphors that are used to capture certain understandings of what the contemporary city is and what it is like to experience contemporary urbanism:

- 1) The city as a machine.
- 2) The city as an assemblage.
- 3) The city as a community.
- 4) The city as a battleground.
- 5) The city as the site of exchange.

Task:

I want you to choose one of the above metaphors (or another taken from independent research) for the contemporary city and urbanism and to explore it as expressed in a local urban space (be this Croydon, Tooting, or any other urban settlement).

You need to think about how that metaphor can be applied to your chosen urban space and how you can represent that to your peers:

- Complete some independent research on your metaphor of choice.
 - Why is the metaphor useful for thinking about modern cities?
 - What depictions of the metaphor linked to cities have you been able to find?
 - Are there any problems with viewing the city through your chosen metaphor?
- You need to use your mobile phone to take pictures that you feel capture your chosen metaphor in action in your chosen urban space.
- You need to produce a **2 slide PowerPoint presentation**. The first slide should describe and explain your chosen metaphor. The second slide should depict, through your photographs, how you were able to see your chosen metaphor in action in your chosen urban space. You will need to be able to talk through your photographs linking them to your metaphor.

You will each present your PowerPoint during our first lesson.

This is an important preparatory task as it begins to enable you to think through the links between abstract geographical concepts and the concrete realities that we inhabit.

Sarah Sze: Artistic representation of the city as an assemblage.



Preparatory Activity 2: Current (and future) sea level rise

The most detailed resource for current and historical sea level changes, and the processes causing these changes, is the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 4th Assessment Report. Various sections are related to sea level, but Chapter 5.5 is a good place to start, while Chapter 10.6 covers current predictions for sea level change in the 21st century:

http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch5s5-5.html

http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/ch10s10-6.html

However, these are quite dense and long discussions! They are written in a scientific style, and can therefore be a challenge to work through. There are several resources that summarise these discussions in a more accessible way. One is the FAQ section of the IPCC report:

http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/ar4/wg1/en/faq-5-1.html

UNESCO have also produced a summary for policy-makers called “*Sea-Level Rise and Variability*” which provides an overview of current and future sea level rise (and also includes some background).

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001893/189369e.pdf>

TASK:

Use these resources to make notes on the following key questions regarding sea level rise:

- What is the current rate of global sea level rise? Don’t forget to note the uncertainty (i.e. the +/- bit..).
- What are the main contributors to the current rate of sea level rise?
- How much can we expect sea level to have risen by the end of the century (2100 A.D.)?
- How much variation is there in these predictions?

Then use these notes, and all the other material you have read so far, to think about the following question:

What are the major uncertainties in our predictions of future sea level rise?

HINTS:

What do we **NOT** understand very well that will affect sea level rise?

Think about the major contributors to sea level rise (e.g. thermal expansion, melting of land-based ice), and what we do and don’t understand very well about them.

Think too about the uncertainty in future climate change (which drives the processes causing sea level change).

These questions form part of the first topic we will study ‘Coastal Environments’. The task will help to prepare you for the detailed knowledge and critical thinking that needs to be developed through the course (as well as an understanding of the intersection between geography, maths and science).

Your responses will be collected during our first lesson.