



## **Wider Reading – Geography**

### **Geography wider reading**

Geographers love to pick up a map or an atlas. Don't be afraid to just grab an atlas and look where places are in the world!

### **Factual interest**

#### **Simon Reeve – Tropic of Capricorn**

In his greatest challenge yet, Simon Reeve sets out on a global adventure circling the world around the Tropic of Capricorn. He encounters sumptuous landscapes, spectacular wildlife, strange rituals and desperate poverty.

*There are other books and DVDs available from Simon Reeve*

#### **Levison Wood – Walking the Himalaya**

An explorer and writer that has led expeditions on five continents, this inspirational book follows Levison Wood as he attempts to walk the entire length of the Himalayas.

Tying in with a hit Channel 4 show, this is a powerful and enigmatic tale of survival and endurance. Levison reveals how he managed to form strong bonds with local guides, porters, mountain men, soldiers, farmers, smugglers and shepherds as he embarked on his quest.

By travelling on foot and following the same footpaths as the locals, Levison uncovers hidden stories that reveal the history of the Himalayas and stretch back over two millennia of exploration.

*There are other books and DVDs available from Levison Wood*

#### **Michael Palin – Brazil**

Brazil is one of the four new global super powers with its vast natural resources and burgeoning industries. Half a continent in size and a potent mix of races, religions and cultures, of unexplored wildernesses and bustling modern cities, it is also one of the few countries Michael Palin has never fully travelled.

Michael Palin explores in his inimitable way this vast and disparate nation. From the Venezuelan border and the forests of the Lost World where he encounters the Yanomami and their ongoing territorial war with the gold miners, he journeys by river to the headwaters of the Xingu, by plane over huge tracts of forest; by steam train and by road along the Trans-Amazonica allow him to reach a kaleidoscopic mix of peoples.

*There are other books and DVDs available from Michael Palin*

#### **Michael Portillo – Great Continental Railway Journeys**

Great Continental Railway Journeys is now a firmly established series on BBC2, following in the illustrious tracks of its predecessor - Great British Railway Journeys. Both series are fronted by ex-politician Michael Portillo and in this European odyssey he travels around continental Europe, using George Bradshaw's 1913 Continental Railway Guide.

*There are other books and DVDs available from Michael Portillo*

### **Ben Fogle – The accidental adventurer**

Ben Fogle's life to date has been action-packed to say the least. He has rowed across the Atlantic, walked to the South Pole, run the Sahara and skated across Sweden. He has encountered remote tribes people in deepest Papua New Guinea, caused a Boeing 747 to dump 100k of fuel before making an emergency landing in Sao Paolo, and been mistaken for Prince William on numerous occasions. He has chased a tarantula round his back garden, survived a flesh-eating tropical disease that required two months of chemotherapy and been bitten by a rabid dog.

*There are other books and DVDs available from Ben Fogle*

### **Bill Bryson – Notes from a small island**

After nearly two decades spent on British soil, Bill Bryson - bestselling author of *The Mother Tongue* and *Made in America*-decided to return to the United States. ("I had recently read," Bryson writes, "that 3.7 million Americans believed that they had been abducted by aliens at one time or another, so it was clear that my people needed me.") But before departing, he set out on a grand farewell tour of the green and kindly island that had so long been his home.

*There are other books available from Bill Bryson*

### **David Attenborough**

David Attenborough has created a wealth of television series over the years. These are available on DVD and you can see many of the series on Youtube. Books are available too to accompany the programmes.

### **Novels with a geography theme**

*Dust*, by Joan Frances Turner. "A novel about the end of the world as it would look like in northwest Indiana, told from the point of view of a teenage zombie. Are the shores of Lake Michigan responsible for creating the walking dead?"

*Call of the Wild*, by Jack London. "Buck, a family pet, is stolen from his California home, transported to Alaska, and forced to become a sled dog during the Klondike Gold Rush. Buck struggles to survive in the primitive environment of the Canadian wilderness. An American classic."

*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, by C.S. Lewis. "A wicked queen casts a spell over an entire land, sending it into a climactic ice age, forcing animals and plants to adapt or die. Four British children—and a lion—save the day, returning the land to its balmy, happy state. If only real-world climate problems were this simple!"

*The Countess Below Stairs*, by Eva Ibbotson. "Anna Grazinsky has spent an idyllic childhood as part of a loving family in St. Petersburg, having picnics on the banks of the Neva River and skating there during the long winters. But revolution forces her family to flee, making their way to England, where Anna becomes a maid at a lovely English country home known as Mersham, located in Wiltshire. There she meets the young earl, home from WWI, to assume his responsibilities as head of the estate even though he long dreamed of accompanying one of his professors on far-flung archaeological expeditions."

*True Grit*, by Charles Portis. "Fourteen-year-old Mattie Ross is a force to be reckoned with. When her father is murdered and the killer, Chaney, escapes into Indian Territory, she negotiates the hire of

retired U.S. Marshal Rooster Cogburn to bring the scoundrel to justice. Together, the unlikely pair trail a gang of criminals across hills and plains, often followed by Texas Ranger LaBoeuf, who has his own reasons to arrest Chaney. From silver mines to rattlesnake dens, the geography of this particular time and place alters the choices and fates of the characters as they seek their ambitions."

*The Alchemist*, by Paulo Coelho. "A young shepherd named Santiago ventures from Spain to Egypt in search of hidden treasure at the pyramids. He experiences different people and cultures as he passes through small villages, crosses a vast desert, and hunkers down in an oasis. A novel that reads like a fable, it's a story about the journey, not the destination."

*Maniac Magee*, by Jerry Spinelli. "This book follows the story of Jeffrey 'Maniac' Magee, a young orphaned boy in an imaginary town in Pennsylvania called Two Mills. Two Mills is divided along racial lines and 'place' plays a huge role in the story, as Maniac navigates his way around town, making both friends and enemies in his search for a family."

*The Wanderer*, by Sharon Creech. "Thirteen-year-old Sophie, her cousins, and her uncles sail 2,600 miles across the Atlantic Ocean from Connecticut to England. They travel up the North American coast from Long Island Sound to Martha's Vineyard, through Cape Cod and the Gulf of Maine to Nova Scotia, and along the Gulf Stream and Labrador currents to Ireland, finally landing in Wales. There's fun, adventure, laughs, and danger all along the way as they explore so many places, from deserted islands to the bustling city of London."

*The Collected Works of T.S. Spivet*, by Reif Larson. "Follow a twelve-year-old genius cartographer named T.S. Spivet on a journey from his Montana home to the Smithsonian! Awe at all of the amazing maps and diagrams that T.S. makes to help explain his story!"

*Ten Cents a Dance*, by Christine Fletcher. "This is a historical novel of Chicago. The attempt of a teenage worker to escape her drudgery in the packing-house assembly line leads her to a secret career in the dance halls of the depression. The time and place are what drive the plot and the characters' motivations. This story could not have happened anywhere else."

*Treasure Island*, by Robert Louis Stevenson. "Obviously, it's geographic because its main plot centers around a map! The story infuses human, historical, and economic geographic aspects!"

*The Winter King*, by Bernard Cornwell. "A great King Arthur book! It takes place all over the British Isles, from Wales to Scotland to Britain; has historical basis for many of the battles; and descriptions of the landscape and how they are living in it. It's exciting, good reading, and is in a series of three."