

# a different view

## a manifesto from the Geographical Association

### summary

The Geographical Association's vision for geography is developed from the following elements:

- Geography underpins a lifelong 'conversation' about the earth as the home of humankind. Geography therefore contributes to a balanced education for all young people in schools, colleges and other settings.
- An essential educational outcome of learning geography is to be able to apply knowledge and conceptual understanding to new settings: that is, to 'think geographically' about the changing world.
- Geography in schools, colleges and other educational settings is concerned with perceptive and deep description of the real world. It seeks explanations about how the world works and helps us think about alternative futures; it is 'Living geography'
- Young people themselves, working with their teachers and drawing from their own experiences and curiosity, should be encouraged to help shape the geography curriculum.
- The GA believes in geographical enquiry: that is, students are active participants and investigators, not just the passive recipients of knowledge.
- Fieldwork – that is, learning directly in the untidy real world outside the classroom – is an essential component of geography education.
- The GA believes that teachers should be accountable, but also that they are autonomous professionals driven by educational goals and purposes: they are the curriculum makers and the subject leaders.



## Photo captions and credits

The photographs in this booklet, and the associated images on the website ([www.geography.org.uk/adifferentview](http://www.geography.org.uk/adifferentview)), are protected by copyright. They are licensed for educational use in conjunction with *A different view* only. Anyone wishing to re-use or re-publish the photos for any other purpose, whether in print or on a website, must apply to the copyright holder for permission.

**cover:** Oahu Pipeline, Hawaii, 2008. © Seth Johnson ([hisurfshots@yahoo.com](mailto:hisurfshots@yahoo.com)).

**page 4:** The Maldives, April 2006. The Maldives, with more than 80% of land less than a metre above sea level, are particularly at risk from rising sea levels. © Ahmed Zahid ([www.ahmedzahid.mv](http://www.ahmedzahid.mv)).

**page 6** (top left): San Marco, Venice, May 2008. © Bart Ceuppens ([www.bartceuppens.be](http://www.bartceuppens.be)); (top right): Demolition of flats at Crossbank Road, Toryglen, Glasgow, 21 January 2007. © Jason McAlister ([jasonmc-alister@hotmail.com](mailto:jasonmc-alister@hotmail.com)); (bottom left): Coastal erosion at Skipsea, East Riding of Yorkshire, March 2007. © Alan Green ([mail@greenalan.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:mail@greenalan.fsnet.co.uk)); (bottom right): Early morning sun lights up the hoodoos in Bryce Canyon National Park, November 2005. © Rod Irvine ([www.flickr.com/photos/rod\\_monkey/58704989](http://www.flickr.com/photos/rod_monkey/58704989)).

**page 8:** China produces 75% of the world's toys. This photo is part of a 2004 installation called 'The Real Toy Story', by Michael Wolf, which can be seen at [www.photomichaelwolf.com/the\\_real\\_toy\\_story](http://www.photomichaelwolf.com/the_real_toy_story). Photograph © Wolf/LAIF, Camera Press London ([www.camerapress.com](http://www.camerapress.com)).

**page 12:** Rush hour at Grand Central Station, New York City, June 2008. © Esther Tange ([esther\\_tange@yahoo.com](mailto:esther_tange@yahoo.com)).

**page 14:** Parkour, Cambridge, February 2008. © Daniel Roy Connelly ([danielroyconnelly@yahoo.com](mailto:danielroyconnelly@yahoo.com)). All rights reserved.

**page 16** (top left): CCTV cameras in Victoria Station, London, December 2005. © Antonio Martínez Corral (<http://instantes.net>); (top right): Boy reading on the Payatas Garbage Dump, Quezon City, Philippines (photographer unknown); (bottom left): Heathrow Airport Terminal Five protest, 27 March 2008. © 2008 Bernard Burns ([bernard.m.burns@gmail.com](mailto:bernard.m.burns@gmail.com)); (bottom right): Winter sunshine on the Grand Pier, Weston-super-Mare, November 2006. © Katherine Jones ([www.katherinejones.co.uk](http://www.katherinejones.co.uk)).

**page 18:** Climbers on Wapta ice fields below Mount St Nicholas, British Columbia, Canada, March 2006. Altitude: 2972m. © Tristan Clements (<http://morealtitude.wordpress.com>, [morealtitude@hotmail.com](mailto:morealtitude@hotmail.com)).

**page 20** (top left): Koh Kut island, Trat Province, eastern Thailand, during the rainy season, August 2008. © Ben Visbeek ([visbeek@dds.nl](mailto:visbeek@dds.nl)); (top right): Connell Canyon, Antarctica, November/December 2007 during the Fuchs Foundation scientific research expedition. © Ruth Hollinger, reproduced by permission of the Fuchs Foundation ([peter@fuchsfoundation.org](mailto:peter@fuchsfoundation.org)); (bottom left): Small canyon leading into the Grand Canyon, Arizona, June 2004. © Philip Shane ([philipshane@mac.com](mailto:philipshane@mac.com)); (bottom right): Machu Picchu, Huánuco, Peru, February 2006. © Glenn Davis ([crashdavis49@hotmail.com](mailto:crashdavis49@hotmail.com)).

**page 22:** Tea plantation near Guilin in southern China, Summer 2007. © Paul Berry ([PBerry5082@aol.com](mailto:PBerry5082@aol.com)).

**page 24** (top left): Earthrise at Christmas, taken over the lunar horizon by the crew of Apollo 8, December 1968, showing for the first time earth as it looks from deep space (NASA); (top right): Rita and Suvass Saha of the Ladywood Road Allotments Association ([www.flickr.com/photos/ladywoodallotments](http://www.flickr.com/photos/ladywoodallotments)), winners of *The Daily Telegraph* 'Best Community

Allotment' competition 2008. © *The Daily Telegraph* ([www.telegraph.co.uk](http://www.telegraph.co.uk)), by permission of the Ladywood Road Allotments Association; (bottom left): Tree felling using chainsaw, Philippines (photographer unknown); Irrigation fields north of Umatilla, Oregon, May 2008. © Samuel M. Beebe/Ecotrust ([www.ecotrust.org](http://www.ecotrust.org))

**page 26:** Touareg, Ténéré Desert, Niger, October 2008. © Alessandro Vannucci ([alessandro.vannucci@libero.it](mailto:alessandro.vannucci@libero.it)).

**page 27** (bottom centre): West Vigne Glacier, Baltistan District, Northern Areas, Pakistan, August 2006. Altitude: 5000m+. © Ahmad Abdul-Karim ([ahmadak@gmail.com](mailto:ahmadak@gmail.com)); (bottom left): Sally Taylor Photography.

**page 29** The images of schoolchildren and teachers were taken by Shaun Flannery and Barry Crayford, on assignment for the Geographical Association ([info@geography.org.uk](mailto:info@geography.org.uk)).

## References

- Bonnett, A. (2008) *What is Geography?* London: Sage. p. 1, p.28.
- Dillon, J. et al (2004) *Engaging and learning with the outdoors – the final report of the outdoor classroom in a rural context action research project*. National Foundation for Educational Research ([www.nfer.ac.uk](http://www.nfer.ac.uk)).
- Gardner, H. (1999) *The Disciplined Mind*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- Hicks, D. (2007) 'Lessons for the future: a geographical contribution', *Geography*, 92, 3, pp. 179-88.
- Jackson, P. (2006) 'Thinking geographically', *Geography*, 91, 3, pp. 199-204.
- Johnston, R. (1985) *The Future of Geography*. London: Methuen.
- Knight, J. (2008) speech at the GA Annual Conference, Guildford, 27 March.
- Lambert, D. (2002) quoted in 'Unchartered territory', *Times Educational Supplement*, 8 November, pp. 34-5. Available online at [www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=371043](http://www.tes.co.uk/article.aspx?storycode=371043).
- Ling Wong, J. (2008) 'Making diversity real in teaching', lecture at the GA Annual Conference, Guildford, 28 March.
- Massey, D. (2008) 'A global sense of place' in Oakes, T. and Price, P. *The Cultural Geography Reader*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- McKernan, J. (2007) *Curriculum and Imagination: Process, theory, pedagogy and action research*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Morgan, J. and Williamson, B. (2008) *Enquiring Minds Year 3 Research Report: Schools, knowledge and educational change*. Bristol: Futurelab ([www.enquiringminds.org.uk](http://www.enquiringminds.org.uk)).
- Ofsted (2008) *Geography in Schools – changing practice*. Available online at [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk), ref No NR-2008-01.
- Palin, M. (2006) speech at the launch of the Action Plan for Geography, 30 March.
- Peters, R.S. (1965) 'Education as Initiation'. Inaugural Lecture, University of London Institute of Education.
- Toksvig, S. (2008) 'There's always a time and a place', *The Sunday Telegraph*, 22 February. Available online at [www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/3671261/Sandi-Toksvig-theres-always-a-time-and-a-place.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/3671261/Sandi-Toksvig-theres-always-a-time-and-a-place.html).
- Rose, P. (2008) 'I'm a geographer', *Geographical Magazine*, 80, 9) p. 5 (Careers Supplement).
- Self, W. (2008) 'PsychoGeography: American gothic', *The Independent*, 7 June. Available online at [www.independent.co.uk/opinion/columnists/will-self/will-self-psychogeography-841566.html](http://www.independent.co.uk/opinion/columnists/will-self/will-self-psychogeography-841566.html).
- Stewart, I. (2008) 'I'm a geographer', *Geographical Magazine*, 80, 9, p. 5 (Careers Supplement).