

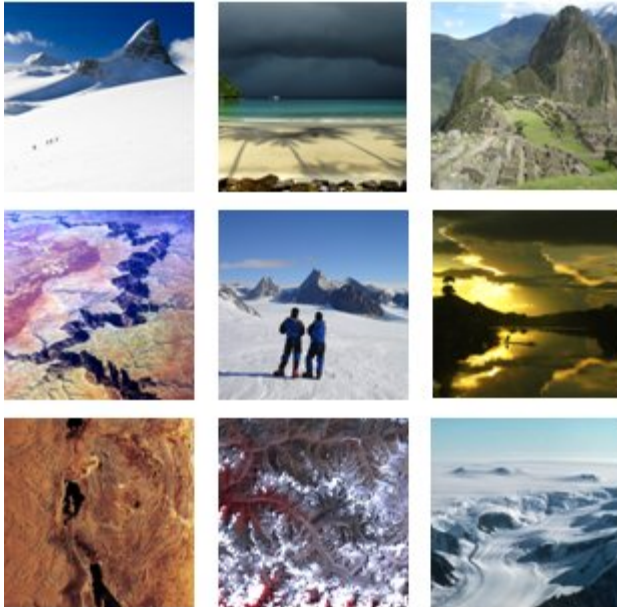
a different view

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To the ends of the earth (key stage 3)



What the photos say

From top left: Climbers on Wapta ice fields below Mount St Nicholas, British Columbia, Canada, March 2006; Koh Kut island, Trat Province, eastern Thailand, during the rainy season, August 2008; Machu Picchu, Huánuco, Peru, February 2006

Small canyon leading into the Grand Canyon, Arizona, June 2004; Connell Canyon, Antarctica, November/December 2007; Fisherman at the Nam Ngum hydroelectric dam, Laos, July 2008

Lakes in the Western Rift of the Great Rift Valley, September 2007; Retreat of the Gangotri Glacier, Himalayas, June 2004; Antarctic Peninsula and Perutz Glacier 1988/89.

This family of photographs supports the questioning and enquiring geographies outlined in *A different view*:

- What do these images show?
- How can people survive in these environments?
- How are these places changing?
- What will these landscapes look like in 2050?
- Why should we bother with places at the ends of the earth?

Lesson idea

Context: An introductory lesson for an extreme environments topic (OCR syllabus A, also taught at key stage 3 in many schools)

Other resources

- Photos printed and (preferably) laminated
- Flipchart or A3 paper.

Suggested activity

Starter

Hand out the nine photographs to groups of students. They decide what their photo shows and think of one question they would like to ask about it. Groups show their photos to the rest of the class and explain their thinking.

Main activity

Groups of students imagine they are planning a visit to the location shown in their photograph. What would they need to pack? What aspect of the trip would they look forward to most? What problems might they encounter, and how might they overcome them? Each group records their ideas on a flipchart/A3 paper.

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The groups pair up and present their ideas to each other. Groups peer assess each other's presentations using two stars and a wish (two things they have done well, one thing they could improve).

Plenary

Focus on two photos – Koh Kut, Thailand and the Perutz Glacier, Antarctica – for a class discussion:

- What do students think will happen to these places in the future?
- What would they like to happen to them?
- What can they do to make the preferred future more likely?

Curriculum opportunities

Global dimension: These diverse images from distant corners of the natural world will encourage students to wonder at the beauty of our planet.

Sustainable development: The plenary encourages students to think about human impact on these fragile, precious environments, and what we can do to make our 'preferred future' possible.

Citizenship: The lesson should help students develop a sense of responsibility, making them aware that what we do has an impact on 'the ends of the earth' and that we should consider how we can change our lifestyles to benefit people and environments far away.

Community cohesion: In planning their proposed 'visit', students will need to think about the importance of working together to overcome the challenges of extreme environments.

Personal, learning and thinking skills: This lesson relies heavily on group work and includes an opportunity for peer assessment, and encourages students to think creatively about their allocated environment.

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