



LS Geography Reading Lists

The books listed below are recommended if you would like to undertake additional reading linked to the topics you will study during the Year 7 Geography course. As well as longer novels and non-fiction texts, where appropriate we have also included picture books and poetry that may inspire creativity. Some topics have more links than others as we will only recommend high-quality titles.

Module One: Geography...and You		
Non-Fiction	A Street Through Time: A 12,000 Year Journey Along the Same Street by Steve Noon	<p>Have you ever wondered what your street was like thousands of years ago? This illustrated history book for children takes you on a 12,000-year journey to find out the story of a single street.</p> <p>Highly detailed illustrations bring 15 key periods in time to life. You will see magnificent buildings go up and come down, new churches built on the site of ancient temples, wooden bridges destroyed and then remade in stone, and statues demolished then unearthed many years later. You'll find out how people lived long ago - the tools they used, what they wore and what they did all day. Revised and updated for a new generation, <i>A Street Through Time</i> now includes a look at the street 50 years in the future.</p>
	The Big Earth Book by Lonely Planet Kids	Planet Earth. Four elements. One incredible story. Taking children on a rollercoaster ride through history, geography, science and more to show how four elements - earth, fire, air and water - created the world and everything that exists today. Amazing facts, photography and illustrations bring our planet and its past to life in an exciting, engaging way.
	The Big History Timeline Wallbook by Christopher Lloyd	Explore the world from the beginning of time until the present, in this amazing, over-sized timeline book that brings history to life! The timeline is broken into 12 sections, including by subject areas (such as sea, land) and continents, as well as by date, with over 1,000 pictures and captions. From the rise of the dinosaur to the creation of the smart phone, the nearly 2-metre timeline allows you to compare events across the world at any given moment in time. An easy-to-read chronicle highlights key moments from history. Other features include a page of letters to the editor, a fifty-question quiz, and a pocket magnifier to make it easier to explore all the timeline's details.

Module Two: Making and Mapping Connections		
Fiction	The Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave	Forbidden to leave her island, Isabella dreams of the faraway lands her cartographer father once mapped. When her friend disappears, she volunteers to guide the search. The world beyond the walls is a monster-filled wasteland - and beneath the dry rivers and smoking mountains, a fire demon is stirring from its sleep. Soon, following her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isabella discovers the true end of her journey: to save the island itself.
	The Marauder's Map Guide to Hogwarts by Janna Ballard	"I solemnly swear that I am up to no good." This beautiful guidebook to the secrets of Hogwarts comes with four foldout pages containing portions of the map. When Potter fans have finished pouring over the text, they can open up the wand, which doubles as an invisible ink marker and light. The light reveals invisible ink secrets on the foldout Marauder's Map pages, while the pen can help readers create their own magical map, using the blank parchment included at the back of this book.
	Rumblestar (The Unmapped Chronicles, Book 1) by Abi Elphinstone	<i>Adventures are unpredictable and often terribly badly behaved – a bit like pickled onions if you've ever tried to fork one on a plate – but they have a way of unlocking people and turning them upside down so that all the astonishing things fizzing around inside them start to tumble out...</i> Eleven-year-old Casper Tock hates risks, is allergic to adventures and shudders at the thought of unpredictable events. So, it comes as a nasty shock to him when he accidentally stumbles into Rumblestar , an Unmapped Kingdom full of magical beasts. All Casper wants is to find a way home, but Rumblestar is in trouble. An evil harpy called Morg is sending her followers, the Midnights , into the kingdom to wreak havoc and pave the way for her to steal the Unmapped magic for herself. But Casper cannot turn a blind eye because the future of his own world, he discovers, is bound up with that of the Unmapped Kingdoms.
Non-Fiction	Brilliant Maps: An Atlas for Curious Minds by Ian Wright	Which nations have North Korean embassies? Which region has the highest number of death metal bands per capita? How many countries have bigger economies than California? Who drives on the 'wrong' side of the road? And where can you find lions in the wild?

		A unique atlas of culture, history, politics and miscellanea, a stunning piece of cartography that maps our curious and varied planet.
	Earth from Space by Michael Bright	With over 200 spectacular images, including astonishing satellite images and stills from the BBC Natural History Unit's footage, <i>Earth from Space</i> reveals our planet as you've never seen it before. For decades we competed to be the first to reach space, but it was when we looked back at Earth that we were truly awestruck. Now, for the first time, using advanced satellite images we can show the Earth's surface and its mega structures, weather patterns and natural wonders in breathtaking detail.

Module Three: About the UK		
Fiction	An Island of Our Own by Sally Nicholls	Siblings Jonathan, Holly and Davy have been struggling to survive since the death of their mother and are determined to avoid being taken into care. When the family's wealthy but eccentric Great Aunt Irene has a stroke, they go to visit her. Unable to speak or write, she gives Holly some photographs that might lead them to an inheritance that could solve all their problems. The siblings set off on a journey around the UK, but they're not the only ones after the treasure... From the winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize.
	Framed by Frank Cottrell-Boyce	Dylan is the only boy living in the tiny Welsh town of Manod. His parents run the Oasis Auto garage – and when he's not trying to persuade his sisters to play football, Dylan is in charge of the petrol log. And that means he gets to keep track of everyone coming in and out of Manod. But when a mysterious convoy of lorries trundles up the misty mountainside towards an old, disused mine, even Dylan is confounded. Who are these people – and what have they got to hide? Inspired by a press cutting describing how, during World War II, the contents of London's National Gallery were stored in Welsh slate mines, this is a funny and touching exploration of how art touches the life of one boy and his family in a very small town.

	The London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd	1.32am. Ted and his sister Kat watch their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye. The pod rises from the ground, high above the city. 12.02am. The pod lands and the doors open. Everyone exits - everyone but Salim. Has he spontaneously combusted? (Ted's theory). Has he been kidnapped? (Aunt Gloria's theory). Is he even still alive? (The family's unspoken fear). Even the police are baffled - so it's up to Ted, whose brain runs on its own unique operating system, to solve this mystery and find Salim. Teaming up with Kat, Ted follows a trail of clues across London - while time ticks dangerously by...
	The Accidental Prime Minister by Tom McLaughlin	This is a popular and funny story about one boy's unexpected rise to power. When Joe tells a local news reporter exactly what he would do if he were in charge of the country, his video goes viral all over the world. Soon, people are calling for the current leader to resign and before long Joe ends up with the most extraordinary new job. A great springboard for helping children to reflect on the responsibility of leaders in democracies like the UK.
Non-Fiction	Notes From a Small Island: Journey Through Britain by Bill Bryson	*An adult book, so confident, mature readers only. Bill Bryson takes a trip around Britain, to take stock of the nation's public face and private parts, and to analyse what precisely it was he loved so much about a country that had produced Marmite; a military hero whose dying wish was to be kissed by a fellow named Hardy; place names like Farleigh Wallop, Titsey and Shellow Bowells; and people who said 'Mustn't grumble', and 'Ooh lovely' at the sight of a cup of tea and a plate of biscuits. <i>Notes from a Small Island</i> was a huge number-one bestseller when it was first published and has become the nation's most loved book about Britain, selling over two million copies.
	Maps of the United Kingdom by Rachel Dixon	Take a tour of the United Kingdom as you've never seen it before in this fully illustrated set of county maps. Travel through England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales and meet the incredible people born there, learn about its proud history, and discover ancient castles, modern feats of engineering and natural highlights while you revel in the nation's curiosities, from the spectacular, to the quirky, to the downright strange! A fabulous introduction to Shakespeare's Sceptre Isle, for readers young and old.

Module Four: Glaciers		
Fiction	Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone	A magical adventure story with a strong female lead, <i>Sky Song</i> will quickly whisk you away into an enchanting fantasy world. Set in an icy landscape populated by a power-hungry Ice Queen, tribes of children living in secret hide-outs and magical animals, this text cleverly explores how the 'magic' of acceptance and tolerance can advance personal and societal change. On their quest to save the kingdom from the clutches of the Ice Queen, adventurers Eska and Flint discover that long-standing borders between different tribes can be broken down and that openness and courage are better markers of identity than ethnicity or class.
	Below Zero by Dan Smith	When Zak's plane crash-lands on Outpost Zero, a small Antarctic research base in one of the most isolated places on Earth, he discovers a cold, dark nightmare. The power's out and the people who live there have disappeared. Worse, as he searches for answers, bizarre visions suggest a link to something else - deep beneath the ice - which only he can understand...
	The Polar Bear Explorers' Club by Alex Bell & Tomislav Tomic	After fighting hard to gain her place on an expedition, young Stella and her explorer friends embark upon an exciting adventure through vast icelands. A wonderful mixture of fantasy and adventure, the narrative weaves its way through dangerous and magical encounters with snow queens, unicorns, frost fairies and wolf-whisperers.
Non-Fiction	Shackleton's Journey by William Grill	A beautiful picture-book account of a particularly famous and hazardous Antarctic adventure. Full of stunning details, facts and figures, which are all brought to life with wonderful illustrations. The artwork is so beautifully created that it disguises the sheer volume of fantastic facts you can learn about the intriguing Shackleton.
	Arctic and Antarctic (Eyewitness) by DK	An informative guide to the world's polar regions. Amazing colour photographs offers a unique "eyewitness" view of some of the coldest and most frozen places in the world. From flora and fauna to human and animal inhabitants, as well as the brave people who explored these extreme regions, often

		with fatal consequences. Also includes a giant fold-out wall chart full of facts, perfect for bedrooms or classrooms.
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Module Five: Rivers		
Fiction	Journey to the River Sea by Eva Ibbotson	A small girl called Maia journeys down the Amazon River with her strict governess, making friends and enemies along the way. Rich in descriptive language in both its depiction of the Brazilian jungle and in its descriptions of complex and cruel characters that will stay with you long after you close the book.
	The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame	A children's literary classic. Set along the riverbank, it recounts the humorous adventures of Toad, who relies on his helpful friends Mole, Ratty and Badger to keep him safe from a series of disasters that he seems to bring upon himself.
	River Boy by Tim Bowler	Winner of the prestigious Carnegie Medal, this profound novel is rich in descriptive language. It tells the story of swimming-obsessed Jess as she struggles to come to terms with the impending death of her grandfather, who insists on finishing one last painting before he dies. Jess meets a mysterious river boy and is faced with an ultimate challenge of her own to complete. This is a novel that deals with themes of life and death and is suitable for more mature or confident readers.
Picture Book	A River by Marc Martin	This stunning picture book is about a girl who observes a river outside her window and imagines where it might go. The book follows the incredible journey of the river through different landscapes, including cities and forests, and there is much to spot in the details of each double-page spread.
Non-Fiction	The 'Where on Earth?' Book of Rivers by Susie Brooks	An informative text about different rivers all around the world, answering different questions about rivers, such as 'Who uses rivers as roads?' and 'How long would it take to swim the River Nile?'

	Horrible Geography: Raging Rivers	Learn all about the weird and wonderful creatures lurking below the river's surface, from the Amazon's crushing anaconda snake and naughty nibbling piranhas to the electric eels that will give you a nasty shock! Snigger as you sneak a peek at the river's sandy bottom! Swim for your life as you reach the edge of the awesome Victoria Falls! Filled with hilarious illustrations by Mike Phillips, HORRIBLE GEOGRAPHY is the perfect escapism from miserable maps, rotten rock piles and dire diagrams. Hold tight!
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Module Six: Africa and Module Seven: Kenya

Fiction	Journey to Jo'burg by Beverley Naidoo	This thought-provoking novel is set in South Africa in the time of Apartheid. The gripping and empathetic story will draw children into engaging imaginatively with what life would have been like for families living during this time of racial segregation.
	The Akimbo Adventures by Alexander McCall Smith	For younger/less confident readers. This book contains three stories about nature at its most wild and thrilling. Akimbo lives on the edge of an African game reserve where he helps his father to protect the animals in their natural habitat. In these adventures, he saves elephants from sneaky poachers, rescues a trapped lion cub and saves a man from the jaws of a crocodile.
	Facing the Lion: Growing Up Maasai on the African Savanna by Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton	Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton gives a first-hand look at growing up in Kenya as a member of a tribe of nomads. We learn about his first encounter with a lion, the epitome of bravery in the warrior tradition and his mischievous antics as a young Maasai cattle herder, coming-of-age initiation, soccer success, and journey to America for college. Lekuton's riveting text combines exotic details of nomadic life with the universal experience and emotions of a growing boy.
	The Fastest Boy in the World by	This is the story of a young Ethiopian boy called Solomon, who has a passion for running. He dreams of becoming a medal-winning athlete. Little does he know that soon he will need to run with all his might in

	Elizabeth Laird	a race to save his grandfather's life. This inspiring story was shortlisted for the prestigious Carnegie Medal.
Short Stories	African Tales: A Barefoot Collection by Gcina Mhlophe & Rachel Griffin	An anthology of stories from different traditions across Africa. Colourful and visually appealing with illustrations made in the style of hand-sewn embroidered bead work. As well as the diverse range of stories, there is also a short introduction to the country that each one is from. This is an excellent anthology to introduce children to stories from other cultures.
Poetry (Novel in Verse)	Home of the Brave by Katherine Applegate	Kek comes from Africa where he lived with his mother, father and brother. But only he and his mother have survived. Now she's missing, and Kek has been sent to America, where he sees snow for the first time. He wonders if the people in this new place will be like the winter- cold and unkind. But slowly he makes friends: a girl in foster care, an old woman with a rundown farm and a sweet, sad cow that reminds Kek of home. As he waits for word of his mother's fate, Kek finds warmth in his new friendships, strength in his memories and belief in his new country.
Picture Book	The Hunter by Paul Geraghty	Filled with detailed artwork portraying different African animals in their natural environment, this picture book tells the story of a girl called Jamina who likes to play at pretending to be a hunter. One day she discovers an elephant in distress and sees first-hand the devastating effect on the natural world caused by poachers. This is a beautifully illustrated picture book with a thought-provoking message at its heart.
Non-Fiction	Africa: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know by Clive Gifford	This colourful non-fiction text is part of the Lonely Planet Kids series called 'Not for Parents'. Filled with interesting and lesser-known facts about Africa, this book covers topics like mummified monkeys, desert races and gorilla whisperers. The accessible text is accompanied by photographs, fact boxes and weblinks.
	Africa, Amazing Africa: Country by Country by Atinuke	Discover the amazing diversity of the African continent in this beautiful book. Atinuke's first non-fiction title is a major publishing event: a celebration of all 55 countries on the African continent! Her beautifully written text captures Africa's unique mix of the modern and the traditional, as she explores its geography, its peoples, its animals, its history, its resources and its cultural diversity.