



LS Geography Reading List

The books listed below are recommended if you would like to undertake additional reading, linked to the topics you will study during the Year 8 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: Fieldwork and GIS		
Fiction	There are not really any Lower Secondary fiction books linked to GIS in particular. However, any of the books from Module Two of Year 7: Maps and Mapping will be an interesting read.	
Non-fiction	The Ghost Map: The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic by Steve Johnson	<p><i>*An adult book so confident, mature readers only.</i></p> <p>A National Bestseller and <i>New York Times Notable Book</i>. It is the summer of 1854 and London is just emerging as one of the first modern cities in the world. But lacking the infrastructure-garbage removal, clean water, and the sewers-necessary to support its rapidly expanding population, the city has become the perfect breeding ground for a terrifying disease no one knows how to cure. As the cholera outbreak takes hold, a physician and a local curate are spurred to action and ultimately solve the most pressing medical riddle of their time. In a triumph of multi-disciplinary thinking, Johnson illuminates the intertwined histories of the spread of disease, the rise of cities, and the nature of scientific inquiry, offering both a riveting history and a powerful explanation of how it has shaped the world in which we live.</p>
	GIS for Dummies by Michael DeMerds	<p><i>*An adult book so confident, mature readers only.</i></p> <p><i>GIS For Dummies</i> tells you all about mapping terminology and digital mapping, how to locate geographic features and analyse patterns such as streets and waterways, and how to generate travel directions, customer location lists and much more with GIS. You can: * learn all the hardware and software necessary to collect, analyse, and manipulate GIS data; * explore the difference between 2D and 3D maps, create a map, or manage multiple maps; *analyse patterns that appear in maps and interpret the results; *measure distance in absolute, comparative, and functional ways; *recognise how spatial factors relate to geographic data; *discover how GIS is used in business, the military, city planning, emergency services, land management and more; *find out how GIS can help you find out where flooding may occur. Whether your goal is to implement a GIS or just have fun, <i>GIS For Dummies</i> will get you there!</p>

Module Two and Three: Population and Urbanisation		
Fiction	Scythe by Neal Schusterman	<p>*A young adult book so confident, mature readers only.</p> <p>In a perfect world, what is there left to fear? This is a chilling and thought-provoking sci-fi novel from <i>New York Times</i> bestselling author Neal Shusterman; a dark, gripping and witty thriller in which the only thing humanity has control over is death. In a world where disease, war and crime have been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly killed ('gleaned') by professional scythes. Citra and Rowan are teenagers who have been selected to be the scythes' apprentices, and despite wanting nothing to do with the vocation, they must learn the art of killing and understand the necessity of what they do. Only one of them will be chosen as a scythe's apprentice and as Citra and Rowan come up against a terrifyingly corrupt Scythedom, it becomes clear that the winning apprentice's first task will be to glean the loser.</p>
	High Rise Mystery by Sharna Jackson	<p>The detective duo everyone is dying to meet! Summer in London is hot, the hottest on record, and there's been a murder in The TRI - the high-rise home to resident know-it-alls Nik and Norva. Who better to solve the case? They are armed with curiosity, home-turf knowledge and unlimited time - until the end of the summer holidays anyway. The first whodunnit in a new mystery series by Sharna Jackson.</p>
Non-fiction	Population (Question It!) by Philip Steele	<p>The world's population is growing, and with this growth comes an increased pressure on resources, such as food, water, land for housing and energy sources. The way in which humans are treating the planet they live on is having a significant effect on the global climate. This matters, because the future of life on the Earth, no less, depends on our understanding of the problem and the actions we take. This book will explore these important topics in a balanced and objective way, encouraging readers to take a questioning approach to the issues surrounding the global population.</p>
	This is How We Do It by Matt Lamothe	<p>*Picture book</p> <p><i>This Is How We Do It</i> follows the lives of seven real kids from Japan, Uganda, Russia, Iran, Peru, India and Italy for a single day. From the time each kid wakes up, until the time they fall asleep, the details of their days differ: their homes are different, their schools are different, even how they play is different. This genuine exchange between real kids provides a window into lifestyles and traditions that may differ from our own, as well as a mirror reflecting the common experiences that unite us all. Inspired by his own travels to write this book, Matt Lamothe will transport readers across the globe and back with this gorgeously illustrated picture book.</p>

Module Four: Coasts

Fiction	House of Light by Julia Green	Bonnie is scavenging on a beach when she finds a battered old rowboat. And under the boat, a bare-footed boy - cold, hungry and in need of help. The authorities have already been troubling Bonnie and Granda for breaking rules, but how can she leave this boy when he has no-one? Bonnie does her best to keep the boy hidden from the border guards, but as their suspicions grow, she wonders if it is time to escape the life she has always known. Under cover of darkness, they set sail to the 'house of light' in search of a new beginning and a sense of hope.
	To the Edge of the World by Julia Green	A beautifully written tale of courage, friendship and survival. Imagine a tiny island far out in the Atlantic Ocean off the west coast of Scotland. On some days, you can hardly see where the sea ends and the land begins; everything merged in a blue-grey mist of sea spray and wind-blown sand. There is nothing between here and America. I say nothing, but what I mean, of course, is nothing but ocean. And about sixty-five kilometres out to sea, one last remote outcrop of islands and sea stacks, with the highest sea cliffs anywhere in the UK - St Kilda. Distant, desolate, and difficult to reach. The islands at the edge of the world . . .
	Inchtinn: Island of Shadows by Danny Westons	A fantastically creepy new mystery from Danny Weston. Inchtinn is where sinister beings stir and tormented souls seek revenge. What if survival relied on facing your greatest fears? Noah is forced to travel with his distant mother to the remote Scottish island of Inchtinn. Since the death of Danny's father, his mother has been struggling for inspiration for her next bestselling children's book and hopes an adventurous trip will help them both. Yet adventure is not the only thing that awaits their arrival. When things take a turn for the worse, Noah has to face the most unimaginable horrors ..
	Where the World Ends by Geraldine McCaughrean	Winner of the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2018. Every summer Quill and his friends are put ashore on a remote sea stack to hunt birds. But this summer, no one arrives to take them home. Surely nothing but the end of the world can explain why they have been abandoned - cold, starving and clinging to life, in the grip of a murderous ocean. How will they survive?
Non-fiction	Coast from the Air by Neil Oliver	Viewed from the air, even familiar landscapes take on a startling new life. The countryside becomes a pattern; the coast becomes an edge. Humanity recedes and the land itself takes centre stage. From small harbours to expansive bridges, towering cliffs to seaside resorts, <i>Coast from the Air</i> gives an incredible new perspective on our green and pleasant land, and how beautiful and fragile that land can be. In 20 chapters - each one focusing on a specific coastal region of the British Isles - over 200 outstanding aerial photographs portray the beauty and diversity of our coastline. From the Dingle to The Wash; from the mild seaside towns of England's south coast to the storm-lashed fishing villages of the Outer Hebrides, <i>Coast from the Air</i> is a true visual feast.

Module Five: Weather and Climate

Fiction	Cloud Boy by Marcia Williams	Harry Christmas and Angie Moon are best friends and almost twins. Ever since they were born two days apart, they have been partners in cloud-spotting, sweet-eating and treehouse-building. But when Harry is taken to hospital for headaches that will not go away, he needs Angie more than ever. Because when things fall apart, only a best friend can stitch them back together. Told through Angie's lively diary, this is a bittersweet story about friendship and growing up.
	Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World by Ashley Herring Blake	When a tornado rips through town, twelve-year-old Ivy Aberdeen's house is destroyed and her family of five is displaced. Ivy feels invisible and ignored in the aftermath of the storm -- and what is worse, her notebook filled with secret drawings of girls holding hands has gone missing. Mysteriously, Ivy's drawings begin to reappear in her locker with notes from someone telling her to open up about her identity. Ivy think - and hopes - that this someone might be her classmate, another girl for whom Ivy has begun to develop a crush. Will Ivy find the strength and courage to follow her true feelings?
	How to Look for a Lost Dog by Ann M Martin	Eleven-year-old Rose is autistic and struggles to understand her classmates. But when her father gives her a stray dog, whom she names Rain , the dog becomes her best friend, her anchor in a confusing world. So, when Rain goes missing during a storm, which leads to the river flooding, Rose refuses to stop looking for her.
Poetry	A Nature Poem for Every Day of the Year by Jane McMorland Hunter	<i>A Nature Poem for Every Day of the Year</i> progresses through the months and seasons. Each poem is chosen to chime with the natural world at that time of year, reminding us to connect to the natural world, which can only improve our lives. This is a wonderful collection of big-name poets and lesser names, famous odes and some unsung poems, that help mark the daily turn of the seasons and all the rituals marking the significant moments of the year (from Candlemas to Christmas).
Non-fiction	Field Guide to the Weather by Ryan Henning	From the soothing sound of rain to the shrill whistle of a blizzard, from the house-shaking rumble of thunder to the violent fury of a hurricane, weather is a fascinating part of our lives. We watch it. We listen to it. We feel it. We try to predict it. But how well do we truly understand it?

Module Six: Climate Change

Fiction	Flood World by Tom Huddleston	In this gripping, action-packed story, Kara and Joe spend their days navigating the perilous waterways of a sunken city, scratching out a living in the ruins. But when they come into possession of a mysterious map, they find themselves in a world of trouble. Suddenly everyone is after them: gangsters, cops and ruthless Mariner pirates in their hi-tech submarines. The two children must find a way to fight back before Floodworld's walls come tumbling down...
	Floodland by Marcus Sedgewick	*Easier read (age range 9–11 years). Winner of the Branford Boase Award 2001 , Marcus Sedgwick's powerful debut novel is about surviving in a sinking world. England is covered by water and Norwich is an island. Zoe , left behind in the confusion when her parents escaped, survives there as best she can. Alone and desperate among marauding gangs, she digs a derelict boat out of the mud and gets away to Eels Island. But Eels Island, whose raggle-taggle inhabitants are dominated by the strange boy Dooby , is full of danger too. A dramatic story of courage and determination that is handled with warmth and humanity.
	The Extraordinary Colours of Auden Dare by Zillah Bethell	The war for water is raging across the world. It hardly rains anywhere. Everyone is thirsty all the time, grubby and exhausted. Auden has to live without his father, who is away fighting, move to a new town with his mother, and start a new school, where everyone thinks he is a weirdo. But when he meets Vivi Rookmini , a smiling girl bright with cleverness, his hopes lift. It soon becomes clear to Auden that there are some strange things afoot in his new hometown. Then Auden and Vivi make an extraordinary discovery. Hidden away under the shed at the bottom of Uncle Jonah's garden is an enigmatic and ingenious robot, who calls himself Paragon. A talking, walking, human-like robot, built by Uncle Jonah - but why? The answer to this will take Auden and Vivi on a thrilling journey of discovery as they find out the truth is bigger and more wonderful than either of them could have imagined.
Non-fiction	No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference by Greta Thunberg	This book contains the history-making, ground-breaking speeches of Greta Thunberg, the young activist who has become the voice of a generation. 'Everything needs to change. And it has to start today'. In August 2018, a fifteen-year-old Swedish girl, Greta Thunberg, decided not to go to school one day. Her actions ended up sparking a global movement for action against the climate crisis, inspiring millions of pupils to go on strike for our planet, forcing governments to listen, and earning her a Nobel Peace Prize nomination. This book brings you Greta in her own words, for the first time.
	This Book is Not Rubbish: 50 Ways to Ditch Plastic, Reduce Rubbish and Save the World! By Isabel Thomas and Alex Paterson	Discover how you can ditch plastic, reduce rubbish, and become an eco-warrior, with 50 practical tips to really make a difference! Our planet is in peril, but the good news is that there are loads of easy ways that you can make a difference. Covering issues such as plastics, pollution, global warming and endangered animals, this book is full of top tips on how to ditch the plastic, reduce your rubbish and start making everyday steps that will make all the difference.

Module Seven: Asia and China		
Fiction	Running on the Roof of the World by Jess Butterworth	Join 12-year-old Tash and her best friend Sam in a story of adventure, survival and hope, set in the vivid Himalayan landscape of Tibet and India. Tash has to follow many rules to survive in Tibet, a country occupied by Chinese soldiers. But when a man sets himself on fire in protest and soldiers seize Tash's parents, she and her best friend Sam must break the rules. They are determined to escape Tibet - and seek the help of the Dalai Lama himself in India. And so, with a backpack of Tash's father's mysterious papers and two trusty yaks by their side, their extraordinary journey across the mountains begins.
	Boxers and Saints by Gene Luene Yang	*Graphic novel In two volumes, <i>Boxers and Saints</i> tells two parallel stories. The first is of Little Bao , a Chinese peasant boy whose village is abused and plundered by westerners claiming the role of missionaries. Little Bao joins a violent uprising against the western interlopers. Against all odds, their grass-roots rebellion is successful. But in the second volume, Yang lays out the opposite side of the conflict. A girl whose village has no place for her is taken in by Christian missionaries and finds, for the first time, a home with them. As the Boxer Rebellion gains momentum, Vibiana must decide whether to abandon her Christian friends or to commit herself fully to Christianity. <i>Boxers and Saints</i> offers a penetrating insight into not only one of the most controversial episodes of modern Chinese history, but into the very core of our human nature.
	Bronze and Sunflower by Cao Wenxuan	Winner of the 2016 Hans Christian Andersen Award , this book is set during China's Cultural Revolution and follows a young girl named Sunflower whose life dramatically changes when she leaves the city for a rural life in the countryside and finds friendship with a boy named Bronze and his family. But life in Damaidi is hard, and Bronze's family can barely afford to feed themselves. Will the city girl be able to stay in this place where she has finally found happiness?
Short stories	Tales from China by Cyril Birch	This collection of Chinese stories begins with the great legends of how Earth and Heaven came into being. There are folk tales too, about ghosts and rainmakers, poor students and magicians, and the man who was nearly made into fish paste. Throughout the collection, the author brings to life all the magic and mystery of China.
Non-fiction	China (DK Eyewitness) by Penelope Sebag-Montefiore	Discover China, the world's most populous country - and how it is changing with the times. Be an eyewitness to a nation of billion people, and learn about their history, their culture, and their way of life. Find out how China is surging ahead in international trade, discover the secrets of traditional Chinese medicine, see the bustling streets of booming megacities, and much, much more. As part of the trusted non-fiction series on the market, <i>Eyewitness Books</i> provide an in-depth, comprehensive look at China with a unique combination of words and pictures.
	The Silk Roads: A New History of the World (illustrated Edition) by Peter Frankopan	Set your sails east with this stunningly original new history of the world. Peter Frankopan, number one bestselling author and historian explores the connections made by people, trade, disease, war, religion, adventure, science and technology in this extraordinary book about how the east married the west with a remarkable voyage at its heart - the journey along the Silk Roads. From ancient world laws laid down by King Hammurabi and the mighty Persian empire, to terrifying Huns, the rise of Europe, two world wars and politics today, <i>The Silk Roads</i> moves through time and history, sewing together the threads from different peoples, empires and continents into a phenomenal history of the globe. With stories from each and every corner of society, Frankopan's magnificent brand-new text based on his literary triumph <i>The Silk Roads</i> , sumptuously illustrated by Neil Packer, is a must-have world history.