





# My Route into GIS

## By Andy Funnell

Social Media  
@GeogAndy



Webpage:  
<https://earthcasestudies.wordpress.com/>

Getting to grips with GIS had been on my teaching bucket list for a long time. I still get a cringey feeling (the same one when you watch poor David Brent in The Office) when I think about my fuzzy responses to GIS-related questions on previous job applications.

My curiosity for GIS resurfaced when I entered the Twittersphere during the first lockdown. Highly visual and truly beautiful maps were appearing on my thread, bringing data to life and with such a vibrance that made me want to click and learn more. It got me thinking that this

powerful mapping must surely be infectious on students too. I wanted to learn more and I'm so glad I did.

In June I sent out a tweet that started it all...

**Five replies:** a recommendation of someone to follow; an invitation from said someone to his GIS webinar; a link to register my school for ArcGIS; a DM containing a treasure trove of GIS ideas and ready-made tasks; and a link to a free online training course. Wowsers.



From here I was taken on two similar yet separate CPD trails, both of which can really enhance the ability and capabilities for you to create a sense of place and spatial awareness with your students. Below is a reflection of my way into GIS and maybe something you can use to get started:

### A) Case Studies with Google Earth

Alistair Hamill recommended to me (and I can now verify) that a good point of entry into GIS could be to have a go at creating a case study using Projects in Google Earth. This powerful platform can effectively launch you and your students out of the classroom and into the heart of case study locations. There is the availability to add text, images and clips to the stunning 2D & 3D views, making for a highly interactive experience for the students.

To say I got hooked was an understatement; I have recently launched [Earth Case Studies](#) with a view to having a collaborative space for geography teachers to share and have access to a plethora of tours and case study destinations.

- Head to [www.earthcasestudies.wordpress.com](http://www.earthcasestudies.wordpress.com) and scroll down for 'oven-ready' case studies.
- [Making a GE Case Study](#) - Walkthrough on how to create a tour.
- [Voyages in Google Earth](#) - Fantastic layers produced by Google and based around key geographical themes.
- **Help Earth Case Studies to grow** - If you do make a case study and you would be happy to share then click on the [Contact & Contribute](#) section.



Exploring disparity and favelas in Rio de Janeiro

I honestly don't think I will teach a case study with PowerPoint ever again.

**FOR THE REST OF ANDY'S ARTICLE GO TO:  
THE FEBRUARY NOTICEBOARD ON  
OUR WEBSITE :  
EARLYGEOGNETWORK.COM**



# REMOTE LEARNING TOP TIPS:

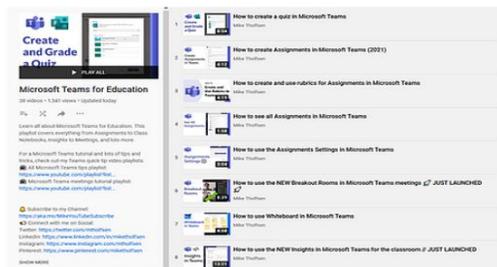
1. Don't reinvent the wheel and use your resources wisely.
2. Use the training available.
3. Use apps such as Flipboard and Book Creator to help
4. Make some of your sessions fun! Remote learning is hard for us all - Making it fun will help boost engagement and help us enjoy the day.

## ECGeogNetwork's Resources to View:

**Remote Learning Training in our January Newsletter...**

**Tutor Activities available on the website and our Google Drive...**

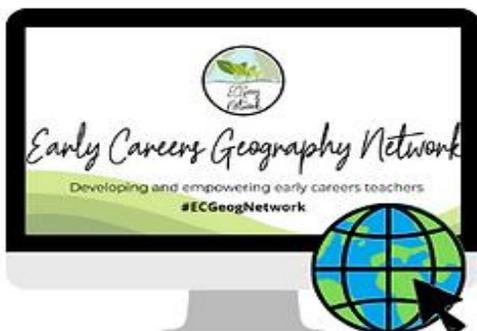
### MICROSOFT TEAMS



### ZOOM



**Useful websites arranged by topic in this months Newsletter...**



**7CXT TUTOR READING PROGRAMME:** *well beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> march*

<p>Some of you may have a book at home you want to read, but if you don't, here are some reading ideas for you to follow this week!</p> <p>Miss T ☺</p>	<p><b>MONDAY:</b> People that changed history...</p> <p>This week we are going to look at the amazing Anna Frank! She was in a hidden room for several months in WWII.</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d0u0u0u0u0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d0u0u0u0u0</a></p>	<p><b>TUESDAY:</b> The world around you...</p> <p>This week, use your reading time to learn about the amazing country that is Kenya!</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d0u0u0u0u0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d0u0u0u0u0</a></p>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY:</b> Whacky stories!</p> <p>This week find out what it's like to live on the international space station!</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d0u0u0u0u0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d0u0u0u0u0</a></p>	<p><b>THURSDAY:</b> Time for fiction!</p> <p>Toady we will start listening to Treasure Island!</p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d0u0u0u0u0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d0u0u0u0u0</a></p>	<p><b>FRIDAY:</b> Follow up Friday!</p> <p><b>Ready your Active Book!</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. You are going to write a brief review of chapter one and email it to me.</li> <li>2. Find three words from chapter 1 that you did not understand and find their meaning!</li> </ol>



**VISIT THE DRIVE**



**VIEW THE FLIPBOARD**

Our latest platform for the Early Careers Geography Network is Flipboard where we collate relevant Geography news stories.

**TWEET US @ECGEOGNETWORK**

