



Early Careers Geography Network

Developing and empowering early careers teachers

#ECGeogNetwork

JULY, 2020 | ISSUE 2

WELCOME TO #ECGeogNetwork

Hello!

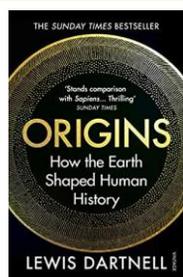
Welcome to July's newsletter where we share the content for this month and upcoming opportunities and news. Our 'Geographer of the Month' for July is Abdurnahman Perez (@mr_perez5 on Twitter). He has done a fantastic column on using technology in the classroom and some exciting 'Top 5's' too. We are so thrilled to have him on board!

We hope as we move towards the summer holidays and the September start, many of you will feel reassured and supported by the network. If there is anything you would like more help with or something for us to focus on tweet us at @ECGeogNetwork.

We hope you all have a restful and joyful summer break – Team #ECGeogNetwork



OTHER STORIES:



BOOK OF THE MONTH

Origins: How the Earth Shaped Human History.

WORLD EVENTS

- 11 July – World Population Day
- 15th July – World Youth Skills Day
- 18th July – Nelson Mandela International Day
- 28TH July – World Hepatitis Day
- 30th July – International Day of Friendship
- 30th July – World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

CPD CALENDER COMING SOON



MEET THE AMBASSADORS

Meet our three new #ECGeogNetwork Ambassadors: Constantine, Vicky, Kodi and Lauren. They have been selected for their talents, positivity and generous contributions to the Geography community. Make sure to follow them for more updates!!

If you believe you would make an excellent ambassador contact @MissT_Geog to discuss the opportunities that might be available.



An Ode to the Whiteboard

Written by **Abdurrahman Perez**

For me, the whiteboard which hangs at the front of most classes is one of the most important tools at your disposal (along with your visualiser, questioning techniques, etc...). Some of the things below sound obvious, but you'd be surprised how many of those new to teaching either completely neglect it or use it simply as a place for the date to be written on and don't use it to its full potential!

Using your whiteboard allows you to be responsive and *responsive teaching is great teaching*. It means, say, being able to add certain keywords which students are struggling to spell or a great phrase a student has shared, but which were not on your PowerPoint presentation up on your interactive whiteboard. This answers the inevitable: "why can't I just do all the below on my PPT?", a fixed document just isn't as flexible as we need to be when engaging in the complex process that is teaching and learning, Here are 5 ways I use my whiteboard:

Diagrams: Much has been written about the timeless benefits of storytelling (see, for example, Andy Tharby's *How to Explain Absolutely Anything to Absolutely Anyone*) and using diagrams handwritten by you is a perfect way to accompany a story or a good explanation. I usually think of it this way – how else would I be able to teach about the multiplier effect without a diagram...? This applies to so many geography topics: I much prefer a bit of chalk (Maxiflo bullet tip) and talk when teaching about, say, the formation of headlands and bays than a lifeless, PPT-animation driven slideshow. For more on this, I highly recommend Mark's take on the subject: <https://teachreal.wordpress.com/2018/09/19/reclaiming-chalk-and-talk/>

Modelling: I know that this is usually the visualiser's realm but (a) not all of us are lucky enough to own one and (b) the whiteboard can be more helpful for shorter bits of modelling, when going to your desk, sitting down and setting up would just slow things down. Modelling your thinking underneath an exam question, breaking down the meaning of a keyword and the thought-

process behind how you remember its meaning (e.g. biodiversity), writing down a perfect sentence/paragraph and breaking down how it is great in different colours, etc... - the possibilities are endless!

Write the aims of the lesson: As I am big believer in sharing learning aims and the '*bigger picture*' with pupils, I like displaying the aim of the lesson in the form of a question, e.g. What have been the impacts of migration on the growth and character of London?, nice and large on the whiteboard. This makes the purpose of the lesson abundantly clear and everything can then be linked to it via a simple arrow.

Thinking together" mindmaps: In my experience, the atmosphere of a class discussion and the drive to be engaged in a lesson completely changes when students realise that what they're saying is being heard and acknowledged. Obviously we can ensure behaviour is good (so that that they're heard), we can issue merits (so that they're praised) or we can use bouncing questioning to build on a pupil's response so they feel part of the learning process. These are all good techniques, but just the mere act of writing a student's thoughts on the board as they speak is powerful. I've observed lessons where this doesn't happen and, although this isn't the sole determining factor leading to this, it certainly feels like the student thinking process is as follows: "Well, if it's not being written on the board then it's no good/doesn't matter and therefore why should I bother to contribute?" This might seem extreme but not so much when we consider the opposite is nearly always true: next time you're doing a class discussion, watch how the demeanour and attitude of the student whose point you just wrote on the board changes and how it encourages another pupil to raise their hand! Next time you're doing feedback on the Do Now, spend about 5 minutes jotting down ideas – along with the discussion I'm sure you'll be having – and just watch the impact.

Articulate: this is simple one – at the end of lesson just as you've all packed up and having a few minutes to spare, have a pupil come up to the board and face the class. Write a key term above their head and get the class to give them clues until they guess it! The pupil with the "winning clue" comes up and the pupil who previously stood at the front writes a new keyword.



Social Media:  @mr_perez5  Earth-writing.com



MR PEREZ'S TOP TIPS:

For the Whiteboard:

- This mind sound super pedantic/boring but the board position is important. You've got to ensure it is visible to all (i.e. nothing obstructing the view or normal size handwriting is visible to the student at the back). Also consider your positioning when writing, as you want to be able to see pupils – even if out of the corner of your eye – when writing and don't want to have your back facing them for too long (for obvious reasons...)
- Another pedantic – nay geeky – one is your choice of pen. I know it sounds silly but I genuinely enjoy writing with a Maxiflo pen (bullet tip only for me!) and so I then do it more often!
- Love what you've done on the board and fear parting ways with it?
<https://www.macworld.com/article/2905384/first-look-office-lens-scans-documents-and-whiteboards-into-editable-office-files.html> - Office Lens has you covered!

Mr Perez's Top 5 podcasts:

1. <https://99percentinvisible.org/> - 99% Invisible: An incredible podcast for all things human geography: It's great for A-Level (Changing Places and CUE especially) but also some ones which could apply to GCSE.
2. <https://open.spotify.com/show/2ZFDmgDS2Z6xccP5IsIzFQ> - Economist Radio: A brilliant way to get caught up world politics, economics, etc... I highly recommend this one!
3. <https://open.spotify.com/show/64cCsH4LCyO5U52xUU4Pax> - The BBC World Service's 'The Documentary': Great mini audio documentaries - a recent one Africa-China relationships was great for CP and GSGG!
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p029399x> - BBC's The Inquiry: Another BBC production, this one explores questions from the recent news.
5. <https://www.ngs.org/schools/teaching-resources/ask-the-expert-podcasts/> - Ask the Geographer: The RGS' podcasts bring the latest in geographical research to your classroom from a host of experts.

OTHER STORIES:

NATURE SIGHTINGS

Sea turtle walks are a popular event on Florida beaches in June and July when huge mama turtles weighing in at around 200 to 250 pounds come ashore to lay their eggs. About two months later, the tiny and adorable sea turtles hatch but they don't just make a run for the water



In next month's issue....

August's Issue will be focusing on all things international! It will contain information on jobs abroad, applying for jobs and travel.