

PRIMARY GEOGRAPHER

No.1

The Geographical Association's magazine for primary teachers.

Spring 1989

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Dear Editor

The designation of geography as a foundation subject in the national curriculum has produced a wide variety of reactions amongst primary teachers. Does it herald the demise of free-ranging, pupil-centred project and topic work? Does it mean a return to a subject curriculum with little sections of time neatly labelled 'geography'? Does it mean a return to the memorisation of 'capes-and-bays'? Is there an identifiable core of geographical ideas, knowledge and skills that all eleven-year-olds should possess?

I think that many of the more apprehensive reactions will prove misplaced. Excellent work on places — local and distant — goes on in a great many primary schools, whether or not it is identified and designated as 'geography'. Molière's "Bourgeois Gentilhomme" was gratified to discover that he'd been speaking prose all his life without realising it; something similar applies to geographical learning in the primary school in 1989. I cannot envisage a more appropriate time for the launch of a new magazine which will open up these questions, provide practical support to hard-pressed teachers, record and disseminate the splendid and innovative work in primary geography around the country.

I am delighted that the new magazine is taking off during my term of office; I extend it a hearty welcome and best wishes for its instant impact and growing influence.

Yours sincerely

Michael Storm

President 1988/9

The Geographical Association



This brand new magazine comes to you filled with the aspirations of those who believe that geography makes a major contribution to the education of the younger child.

Through its pages we offer material to enliven and strengthen topic work, environmental education and those integrated projects of which our primary schools are justly proud. Great opportunities exist for the development of geographical understanding within our schools. This magazine seeks to maximise those opportunities by offering teachers project materials, linked to pictures and posters, articles which present and discuss good practice, guidance on mapwork, local studies and overseas geography, links between geography and literature, ideas for collections and puzzles, reviews of books, software and other materials.

Included in this first issue is an amazing offer from Griffin and George which could bring satellite images directly to your classroom, a whole new development in primary education and a chance for your class to participate. For details of the award see the Griffin and George insert, and for ideas about using satellite images turn to the centre spread.

This magazine will be a forum for the thoughts and ideas of teachers who are specialists in the education of young children aged 5-13, whether they be in primary, first or middle schools. It will centre around the theme of people and places, ranging from the local to the global, promoting an environmental ethic, international understanding and co-operative learning within the context of the national curriculum. Assessment of learning outcomes, evaluation of curriculum initiatives, record keeping and INSET provision will all feature in its pages. Regular contributors will include names well known for their published materials.

This is your magazine. Please make it so by contributing yourself. Articles, project work, short pieces of interest to other teachers and letters to the editor will all be welcome. Why not attend the GA Annual Conference Primary Day, at the London School of Economics, on Wednesday 29th March, and make your views known at the editor's workshop. We believe that ... geography is good for you ... let us make it increasingly so, for *all* the young children in our schools.

Wendy Morgan

Cover photograph supplied by Jon Cree, Day Visits Officer, Peak National Park.

The opinions expressed in this magazine by our contributors do not necessarily coincide with those of the Editor or of The Geographical Association. **Safety.** Care has been taken to ensure that articles and project work published in *Primary Geographer* do not suggest practices which might be dangerous. However, the Association has not tested the activities featured and can therefore give no guarantee of safety. **Primary Geographer** is published three times a year and sent free to all primary members. **Subscription rate:** £7.50. **Subscription enquiries to:** The

Geographical Association (Primary Membership), 343, Fulwood Road, Sheffield, S10 3BP. Tel: 0742 670666. **Editorial Address:** Mrs. Wendy Morgan, Paddocks, 9, Shearman Road, Hadleigh, Ipswich, IP7 5JW. © **The Geographical Association.** As a benefit of membership, the Association allows its members to reproduce material from *Primary Geographer* for their own internal school use, provided that the copyright is held by the GA. ISSN 0956 277X

