Mark Easton
Head of Humanities, St Margaret’s School
Geography author, Oxford University Press
The perceptions people have of place, and how this influences their connections to different places
The way transportation and ICT are used to connect people to services, information and people in other places.
The ways that places and people are interconnected with other places through trade in goods and services, at all scales.
The effects of the production and consumption of goods on places and environments throughout the world and including a country from North-East Asia
The effects of people’s travel, recreational, cultural or leisure choices on places, and the implications for the future of these places.
Geographies of Interconnections?
The geography of my stuff
The perceptions people have of place, and how this influences their connections to different places

The ways that places and people are interconnected with other places through trade in goods and services, at all scales

The way transportation and information and communication technologies are used to connect people to services, information and people in other places

The effects of the production and consumption of goods on places and environments throughout the world and including a country from North-East Asia

The effects of people’s travel, recreational, cultural or leisure choices on places, and the implications for the future of these places

Why doesn’t everyone like the same places that I do?

Where does my stuff come from?

How does it get here?

How does my stuff change places?

How do my holidays change places?
What are your students into?

Tap into their interests,
Their hobbies.
Their sports.
Their stuff.
Their lives.
The interconnections of ... Cadel

Source 3.17  Australia’s Cadel Evans (right) wins a stage in the 2011 Tour de France. He is followed to the line by cyclists from Spain, Kazakhstan, Colombia, Belgium and Norway. The race was televised in 190 countries and watched by an estimated 3.5 billion people around the world.
The interconnections of ... Facebook

Source 3.26  This map of the world was created not by drawing borders, but by marking the connections between 10 million Facebook friends.
The interconnections of ... my laptop

Source 3.50  Materials used in laptop construction and their country of origin. At least 20 different materials from at least 10 different countries go into making a laptop computer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of origin</th>
<th>Materials supplied for laptop construction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Europium, Aluminium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>Beryllium, Palladium, Phosphorus, Silicon, Copper, Europium, Boron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>Bismuth, Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Indium, Silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Copper, Arsenic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Silicon, Tantalum, Niobium, Aluminium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Lithium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Platinum, Gouea Gallium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>Cobalt, Tin, Tantalum, Titanium, Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
<td>Lithium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Chromium, Gold, Manganese, Cadmium, Platinum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Titanium, Lead, Nickel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russia</td>
<td>Ruthenium, Ferrite, Steel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>Vanadium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan</td>
<td>Antimony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Tin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>Glass, Cadmium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Selenium, Steel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>Germanium, Terbiunm, Magnesium, Rhodium, Yttrium, Plastics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source 3.48  Virtually all of the world’s laptops are assembled in Chinese factories owned by Taiwanese companies. In 2011, 244 million laptops were made in China.
The interconnections of ... Maria Sharapova

Case study: Maria Sharapova – a global brand

Like many sports stars, tennis player Maria Sharapova links together people and places all around the world. She has won tournaments in Britain, France, the United States, Australia, Japan, Switzerland, Qatar, Italy, Canada, South Korea, Germany and Luxembourg. She once travelled 77,000 kilometres in a two-month period to reach all of her tournaments in time.

Sharapova has been the world’s highest paid female athlete every year between 2006 and 2013. This is due largely to the $23 million she receives in endorsements from a range of companies around the world.

She has her own website and there are many fan websites dedicated to her as well. Maria Sharapova’s fans all around the world can connect to her wherever she is by watching her play when her games are broadcast, following her on Twitter and Facebook, and buying the products she endorses.

Source: 3.56 Maria Sharapova’s many product endorsement deals and brand ambassadorships illustrate how people and places can be interconnected globally through sport.

• Born in Russia, lives in the United States
• More than 10 million Facebook friends
• 166,000 Twitter followers
The interconnections of ... Crumpler

Source 4.9  Crumpler is an example of an Australian company that has achieved global success.
Source 4.17 Twelve-year-old Reena works five hours a day, seven days a week to stitch together balls for Australian children. She thinks she has fallen three years behind her classmates in her schoolwork as a result.
The interconnections of ... chocolate

Source 4.20  This is seven-year-old Sami Sery with his uncles. Like many children in West Africa he works in a cocoa plantation supplying the raw material for the world’s chocolate industry.

Source 4.21  Source: www.oecd.org
The interconnections of ... Hip Hop
RESOURCES YOU NEED TO BRING THIS UNIT TO LIFE
I, PENCIL
The geography of my stuff - Where does my stuff come from?

This lesson looks at the sources of consumer goods from around the world and the issue of food miles.

Key questions

- What are the sources of consumer items and how are they spread across the globe?
- What are food miles?

Key concepts

- Cultural understanding and diversity
- Space
- Interdependence
- Environmental interaction

What are the sources of consumer items and how are they spread across the globe?

Labels on products that we buy can tell us a bit about the origins of that product, but they don’t tell us the whole story. There are many questions that can be asked: Where was the product made? Who made it? What were the working conditions like for this person? Where did the different components come from? Who owns the company that made the product? Where do they make/spend their money? What are the environmental implications of the manufacturing/packaging/transporting of the product? And so on.

The American writer Thomas Friedman found that the components of his Dell laptop originated from a possible forty different factories in sixteen different countries. So it’s not just the final product that needs to be investigated, but all of the component parts as well.
Learn how your favorite brands relate to trafficking and other labor abuses. Free2Work provides consumers with information on forced and child labor for the brands and products they love.

**Featured Post**

**MAPPING A SUPPLY CHAIN: CONSUMER ELECTRONICS**

Have you ever wondered where your consumer electronics come from? The supply chain for consumer electronics is complex, composed of many layers, and involves many parties. This makes it difficult to trace where labor abuses occur. Most products travel through various parts of the world, and the making
Making sure the unit is ‘Geographic’
Use the right language

Concepts for developing geographical understanding
The Australian Curriculum: Geography identifies the concepts of place, space, environment, interconnection, sustainability, scale and change, as integral to the development of geographical understanding. These are high-level ideas or ways of thinking that can be applied across the subject to identify a question, guide an investigation, organise information, suggest an explanation or assist decision-making. They are the key ideas involved in teaching students to think geographically.
Concepts for developing geographical understanding
The Australian Curriculum: Geography identifies the concepts of place, space, environment, **interconnection**, sustainability, scale and **change**, as integral to the development of geographical understanding. These are high-level ideas or ways of thinking that can be applied across the subject to identify a question, guide an investigation, organise information, suggest an explanation or assist decision-making. They are the key ideas involved in teaching students to think geographically.
Change
Source 4.18  Kenyan roses for sale in Europe – these ones are clearly labelled, but not everyone will take note or think about the origin of the flowers they buy.

Source 4.19  A worker’s town near Lake Naivasha, Kenya
Many areas that were once wilderness have been changed to provide the things that tourists need and want such as hotels, airports, swimming pools and roads. On the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, for example, lies the tourist town of Cancun (see Source 4.64). Blessed with a spectacular coastline and warm temperatures, it attracts about 2 million visitors a year. Before it became a tourist destination, Cancun was a barrier island enclosing a massive shallow lagoon, the Nichupte Lagoon, which was an important nesting site for sea turtles and seabirds.

The lagoon was fringed by mangroves, which acted as a nursery for fish and other marine animals (see Source 4.65). As more tourists began to visit, causeways were built at both ends of the island to join it to the mainland. The causeways restricted how much fresh water was able to flow into the lagoon, changing the conditions of the ecosystem. In addition, sections of the lagoon were filled in, and 60,000 hectares of rainforest and mangroves were removed to make way for the development of hotels and resorts.

Native plants that once protected the coast and prevented erosion were replaced with non-native plants. There are far fewer fish and shellfish due both to the loss of their habitat and overfishing to feed the tourists. Large areas of coral reef are now dead or damaged as a result of the snorkelling and scuba diving. Boats and jet skis create pollution, while boat anchors can drag along the seabed, damaging coral and stirring up sediment, all of which have negative impacts on marine life.
Reopening the Northwest Passage

As the economies of the world become more closely linked due to globalisation, shipping companies are looking for ways to reduce the relative distance between trading countries. The Americas have always been a physical barrier between Western Europe and East Asia, two of the major trading areas of the world.

Before the completion of the Panama Canal in 1914, ships were forced to brave the dangerous waters around Cape Horn on the southern tip of South America. Today, around 40 ships a day pass through the Panama Canal but some large ships now exceed the size limits of the canal.

The preferred route for ships would be the Northwest Passage around the north of North America. However, the Arctic sea ice is unpredictable and hazardous, even in summer when much of the ice covering the Arctic Ocean melts.

Climate change, however, is now opening up the Northwest Passage. Each year the sea ice shrinks by about 70,000 square kilometres, and many researchers now believe that the passage could be completely ice-free all year within decades. Many shipping companies around the world won’t wait that long, however, and have begun building ships that can withstand the reduced Arctic sea ice.

For more information on the key concept of change refer to section GT.1 of ‘The geographer’s toolkit’.

Source 3.21 NASA satellite data in 2011 showed that Arctic sea ice had retreated to a level far smaller than the 30-year average (marked in yellow), opening up the Northwest Passage shipping lanes (in red).
Interconnection

Source 3.58  A worker shows a label on a piece of newly made clothing at the Bantai textile factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
Comparing different perceptions of place

How you perceive and use a place can be influenced by various factors. The same place can be perceived in different ways by different people – a historian might perceive a museum as a fascinating place to visit, for example, while another person might think it is quite boring. The same place can be used in very different ways, too. The steps outside the museum could be used as a place to go skateboarding, or at other times as a backdrop for wedding photos. A park that is filled with families on a bright sunny day might seem like a safe, enjoyable place to go with a friend, but the same park might seem very different to you if you found yourself there in the middle of the night alone. Factors that influence how you perceive places include:

- your age
- your ethnic origin
- your gender
- the time of day or night you are visiting the place
- whether you are travelling to the place alone or in a group
- whether you have a disability or are able-bodied.

For more information on the key concept of place refer to section GT.1 of ‘The geographer’s toolkit’.

Source 3.4 There are many factors that might influence the way someone perceives a place.
Develop and use geographic skills
Collecting, recording, evaluating and representing:
collecting geographical information from secondary sources
Collecting, recording, evaluating and representing:

- gathering relevant data from a range of primary sources, for example, from conducting surveys and interviews

Communicating:

- Present findings, arguments and explanations in a range of appropriate communication forms, selected for their effectiveness and to suit audience and purpose;
- using relevant geographical terminology, and digital technologies as appropriate
Collecting, recording, evaluating and representing:

Represent the spatial distribution of geographical phenomena by constructing special purpose maps that conform to cartographic conventions.
Fieldwork: an essential component of geographical learning
Dredging blow to port plan

April 10, 2014

Port Phillip Bay faces massive dredging on a scale never before attempted in Australia, at a cost of billions, if Labor follows through on its policy to build a new container port between Avalon and Geelong, an investigation by the Transport Department has found.

Building a port at Bay West would require dredging of between 66 million and 84 million cubic metres of material, including rock, from the sea floor - three to four times more than was dredged in the previous channel deepening project - the report found. This would be so "technically difficult and prohibitively expensive" it might "prove not to be feasible".

EXCLUSIVE

Premier Denis Napthine promises Melbourne airport rail link

April 13, 2014

Josh Gordon
State political editor for The Age.
View more articles from Josh Gordon

Premier Denis Napthine has promised to build a new rail link to Melbourne airport in one of his first acts in office.

The Premier said a link would ensure passengers had a "reliable, safe and high-quality" transport option to and from the airport.

"I’ve got the inescapable conclusion that such a link is needed," Premier Mr Napthine said.

"It will make it much easier, not just for passengers, but for freight as well. And it’s a project that is not only timely, but strategically important for the state’s future as well as the nation’s.

"It’s something that has been under consideration for a very long time, a project that has been discussed for many years and for many years has been labelled as a project that is at least a decade away.

"It won’t be," he said.
Mark Easton
Head of Humanities, St Margaret’s School
Geography author, Oxford University Press