

Geography Matters

„ Looked at objectively, it is surely perverse for a geography teacher not to be able to stimulate students, given that the essence of the subject matter is of such variety, dynamic chase and interest (from Walford, R. 1998) *Geography: the way ahead*, *Teaching geography*.

„ Like most subjects, geography is difficult to teach well if you are not sure about what it offers and where it can take you (from Lambert, D. 2005) *An Axis to grind: What is World teaching and why?*, *Times Educational Supplement*, 4 March.

„ Geography is a dynamic subject; it responds to and seeks to describe and explain the World as it changes. Geography teachers are charged with the task describing and explaining aspects of this changing World to young people they teach; being clear about the theoretical basis on which they base their teaching is the least we should expect (John Morgan, 2004, unpublished draft manuscript).

„ Place is an important concept for geography. It overlaps with and sometimes substitutes for other key terms such as region, area and landscape but still has a dimension of its own. Place can be studied in its own right as an identifiable segment of the Earth's surface with a particular set of identifying features. It can also be seen as a mirror of society, reflecting both the history and distributions of power of the context in which it has emerged. Place for geographers is part of the Earth's surface with a spatial identity and boundaries that separate it from other places. Some places are very clearly defined in these terms; others are more opaque (from Matthews, J. and Herbert, D. 2004, *Unifying Geography*, Abingdon: Routledge, p. 168).