**Week 2 Being a Geographer**

**Task 1 Specialisations in geography**

**Write down three specialisations in geography, Extra – challenge yourself!  
e.g.** *a cartographer* **Write down two more professions   
 and explain what they involve***.*

**What do they do?   
For example:***A cartographer develops and produces maps.*

**Task 2 Listening: A day at work – Wesley Catanzaro, a GIS analyst**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rokWdaGc3u4>

1. **Before you listen – can you explain these expressions? What do you think Wesley is going to talk about?**

pedestrian safety

abandoned buildings

conduct a survey

fill out forms

score streets

rank high in pedestrian quality

decision making

interdisciplinary approach

representation of real-life phenomena

going out into the field

surveying the streets

intersection

crosswalks

sidewalk obstructions

1. **Listen and answer the questions. Extra – challenge yourself!**
2. Which field does Wesley work in?

……………………………………………………………………… **Summarise how Wesley processes**

1. Maps are great tools for… **the collected data and what they are**

……………………………………………………………………… **important for.**

1. What does environmental health require?

………………………………………………………………………

1. What does his typical day include?

………………………………………………………………………

1. What does the office job entail?

………………………………………………………………………

1. What kind of software is ArcGIS?

………………………………………………………………………

1. What should you focus on while at school?

………………………………………………………………………

1. What does he regret not learning at high school?

……………………………………………………………………....

1. Does Wesley still think he is not artistic?

……………………………………………………………………

**Task 3 Reading: An interview with a geographer**

1. **Match words to make collocations.**

**Basic: Extra challenge:**

spatial (own’s) impact

stir in importance

grapple with bluntly

put something essential issues

grow imagination

develop peak

mountain (your own) perspective

take to mind

make (a very real) problem come the big picture

minimise a (positive) difference

solve thinking

see action

1. **Read the interview and complete it with appropriate questions.**
2. **…………………………………………………………… ?**

Geography is not simply a body of content knowledge but provides a way of looking at the world. A ‘geographic perspective’ informs just about every other discipline. When epidemiologists study the spread of diseases, scientists study climate change, or businesspersons determine where to locate a new retail establishment, they use spatial thinking and analysis. In each case, geography provides critical tools for studying these issues and for solving very real problems on a daily basis. It underpins the critical thinking skills, technology skills, citizenship skills, and life skills that underpin all other disciplines. It is essential for grappling with the essential issues of the twenty-first century. If we continue to ignore geography education, we do so at our own peril.

1. **………………………………………………………………. ?**

While Holy Hill on the glacial moraines of Wisconsin, USA, and the high Chalk Cliffs at Beachy Head, England, come to mind, the geographic perspective has helped me realize that my favourite places are ordinary places, actually. I like to explore where everyday people live and work. Once in London after a GA conference, I walked in a large circle around the old Battersea Power Station because as a child, most of my classmates had the Pink Floyd Animals album that pictured the station, and I always wanted to see it. I like viaducts, old barns, and rail yards. Many people would say that’s ‘just’ a field or ‘just’ a neighbourhood, but for geographers, it’s never just ‘just!’. There’s always more going on if one takes the time to look, and to think.

1. **…………………………………………………………………….. ?**

I’m not sure I can select just one. While I do enjoy teaching online courses, one of my favourite geographical activities is to teach multi-day geography and geotechnology modules for groups of educators. It is a thrill to see them realize the value of spatial thinking, experience the power and ease of geotechnologies, and develop their own geographic perspective. Another of my favourite activities is to visit latitude-longitude confluence points. I have visited over 150 of them around the world, including six in the UK. There’s nothing quite like feeling ‘centred’ along the Prime Meridian! My third favourite thing is speleology and caving. With most of the mountain peaks climbed and ocean trenches plumbed, caves represent some of the last Terra Incognita of our day and age. Exploring them, one is completely focused on drinking in their beauty but also stepping ever-so-carefully as to minimize one’s own human impact.

1. **……………………………………………………………………………. ?**

I will put it bluntly – without the geographic perspective, and the ability to use it while engaging in geotechnologies, we are going to have a rough time in the twenty-first century. People have always been fascinated with investigating their home – the Earth. For centuries, the study of geography and maps have stirred imaginations and inspired explorations of the unknown. Today, geography is more relevant than ever before, as issues of climate change, cultural diversity, economic globalization, urban sprawl, biodiversity loss, sustainable agriculture, water quality and quantity, crime, energy, tourism, politics, and natural hazards grow in importance on a global scale and affect our everyday lives. To grapple with these issues requires a populace that has a firm foundation in geography, a populace that can see the ‘big picture’ but that understands how different patterns and trends are related from a global scale down to the local community. Geography is a science with methods, tools, and a theoretical base, concerned with cultural and physical processes.

1. **……………………………………………………………………………… ?**

Geography has taught me three main things: First, it has taught me to care for the Earth, to take action to protect it. Second, geography has taught me to enjoy the marvellous place in the universe that the Earth really is. Just think of the ability to stand in the warm sun on a warm patch of ground on our Earth, while you are literally surrounded by billions of light years of cold and dark space. Think of a single planet where you can stand on an ice cap, in a rainforest, on a windblown prairie, and in a thousand other ecoregions. Third, geography has helped teach me respect for people. Consider how diverse our planet’s climate, biomes, and landforms are. Now consider how infinitely more diverse and amazing people are. This motivates me to try to make a positive difference in people’s lives each day through geography education and beyond.

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(Adapted from: <https://www.josephkerski.com/about-joseph-kerski/interview-with-the-primary-geographer/>)

1. **EXAM PRACTICE Find synonyms (one- or two-word) in the text above**

* gives support (par. 1): ………………………………
* to put in place (par. 1): ………………………………
* a large mass of rocks and dirt that has been carried along with a glacier and is left behind when the glacier melts (par. 2): ………………………………………
* search and discover (par. 2): ………………………………
* a place where two things join (par. 3): ………………………………..
* narrow holes that are dug into the ground (par. 3): ………………………
* involved in something (par. 4): …………………….
* the often unplanned spread of a city (par. 4): …………………………….
* a wide area of flat land without trees in Canada and the northern US (par. 5):…………………..
* showing a great deal of variety; very different (par. 5): ……………………….

**Task 4 EXAM PRACTICE Ask about the underlined phrase:**

1. Geography provides critical tools for studying various issues.

………………………………………………………………………. ?

1. I have visited over 150 confluence points around the world.

……………………………………………………………………….. ?

1. Geography is concerned with cultural and physical processes.

………………………………………………………………………… ?

1. This experience motivates me to try to make a positive difference in people’s lives.

…………………………………………………………………………… ?

1. Geography has taught me to enjoy the marvellous place in the universe that the Earth really is.

…………………………………………………………………………….. ?

1. Weathering causes the disintegration of rock near the surface of the earth.

……………………………………………………………………………. ?

1. Weathering causes the disintegration of rock near the surface of the earth.

……………………………………………………………………………. ?

**TASK 5 Role play**

**Pick one of the professions discussed at the beginning of the lesson, tell your partner. Make three questions you’d like to ask about this profession.**

**For example:**

**A: I’ve picked a meteorologist. B: Where do you work? …**

**B: I’d like to become a cartographer. A: What do you find challenging about this job?...**