

GEOGRAPHICAL LINKS – HIGHLIGHTS FALL 2020

I have had the pleasure of meeting many lovely people while giving some 19 courses since my first black and white power-point effort in the Fall of 2005. Most courses contained some highlights that I'd love to share with you again. Some favourites for me and for class members have been from Great River Basins of the World, Geographical Curiosities, Landscapes (where paintings from art galleries were incorporated into the narrative) and a course on Islands. And I have a personal fondness for the British Isles! As the course develops I will weave into its fabric any favourites and requests of yours.

But this will not just be a rerun of past courses. No indeed! Learning something new keeps us all on our toes and each session will contain a portion of material that is new to me and maybe to us all. Geography is a subject that examines how the physical world has an impact on how people live and also the opposite: what is the impact of people on the, and their, environment?

Themes will include growing our food; tourism; air and water quality; housing and life in villages, towns, and cities. We'll look at local environments running the gamut from our verandas, to gardens, to parks and wild places near and far. I am not an expert on the environmental processes, since I lack the training in the sciences. My approach to the environment is that of a non-scientist (sadly) but an interested and a concerned human geographer.

The first session will open with a bang - Volcanoes! Maps show distinct locational patterns with a few outliers. Why is that? People seem to like living around volcanoes. Why is that? Have we not learnt the lesson of Pompeii? Even the largely gentle landscape of the British Isles owes much to tectonic activity. In the second session we'll move on to rivers: their value, the efforts to keep them flowing and clean, their beauty, interest and dangers. Most world rivers are under attack. We'll examine what we can all do to protect them. And when we look at British landscapes we'll discover why, when I was a child, I'd sometimes find apples bobbing around in our basement. We'll also see why the market town of Ely (in the UK) is on an island, but it's not surrounded by water. And it has a magnificent cathedral but a population of only some 18,000 people. Our world is full of many beautiful and fascinating places. We shall explore a tiny proportion of them. I hope that some of you will keep me company on this journey.

Leader: Helen Goddard has a degree in geography from Cambridge University, United Kingdom. She taught mainly 16- to 18-year-olds for several years, in the United Kingdom and briefly in Switzerland. She has done a lot of coaching of individuals and small groups for exam preparation. In 2004 Helen came to Princeton because of her husband's job and has enjoyed leading a group of keen geographers at the Evergreen Forum since that time.

Thursdays: 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., 6 weeks: September 24 through October 29

Maximum: 25 seats