

Myths of Geography

Booklet by Mark Enser



Watch

- 'Silk Road: the history behind key global trade region and China's renewed interest' - BBC World Service. Extends Step 4 with the historical Silk Road behind the modern Belt and Road Initiative.
- TED-Ed x World Economic Forum - a short animated explainer on the history of GDP and why alternative ways of measuring a country's success have been proposed. Extends Step 3.



Listen

- GeoCurrents – 'Revisiting the Myth of Continents', a geography blog discussing why the standard seven-continent model is inconsistent. Extends Step 1.
- Princeton Pulse Podcast - 'Measuring the Good Life', on alternative metrics for national wellbeing beyond GDP. Extends Step 3.



Read

- PBS Frontline - 'All Roads Lead to China: The Belt and Road Initiative, Explained'. A clear overview of the scale and reach of China's infrastructure investment, extending Step 4.
- 'Invention of Tradition: How Eric Hobsbawm Exposed 'Ancient' Customs' – an accessible introduction to the historian whose work the whole idea of 'invented tradition' in Step 2 comes from.

**Read**

- GeoCurrents – ‘Revisiting the Myth of Continents’, a geography blog discussing why the standard seven-continent model is inconsistent. Extends Step 1.
- ‘British Government Pays Off Slavery Abolition Act Loan After 182 Years’ - background on the 2015 repayment referenced in Step 5.
- Nathan Nunn, ‘The Long-Term Effects of Africa’s Slave Trades’ – the academic research (freely accessible abstract and working paper) behind the claim in Step 5 that the slave trade is linked to poorer economic performance today.
- Dorothy Hammond and Alta Jablow, ‘The Myth of Africa’ – the book Richardson’s Step 5 chapter title is directly drawn from. Available from your local library.
- Chinua Achebe, ‘Things Fall Apart’ (1958) – the novel referenced at the end of the Step 5 extract, exploring the impact of colonialism on a traditional Igbo community. Available from your local library.

Have ideas?

Have you found other interesting material that brings this unit to life? That you enjoyed and you think others might too?

Please write to us and share. We would love to hear from you!



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Key Stage 3:
The Ambitious Years

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