

The universe is a big place - dark and empty....



...but we are fortunate. This is **Earth** - our living planet!

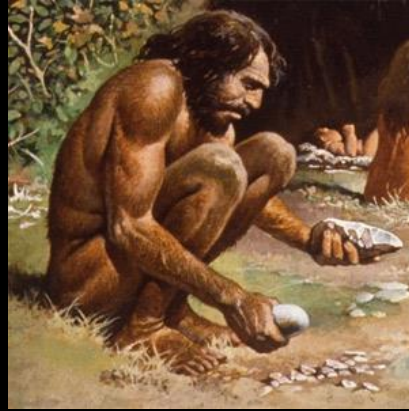
Millions of years ago, the pattern of oceans and continents on Earth looked **very different** to now....



....and because of **continued change**, the pattern will look very different in the future.

**Geography  
Matters!**

Not so long ago in Earth's history, there were **no humans**.



From the time the first humans appeared, it took thousands of years for the world population to reach **1 billion**.

It then took just:

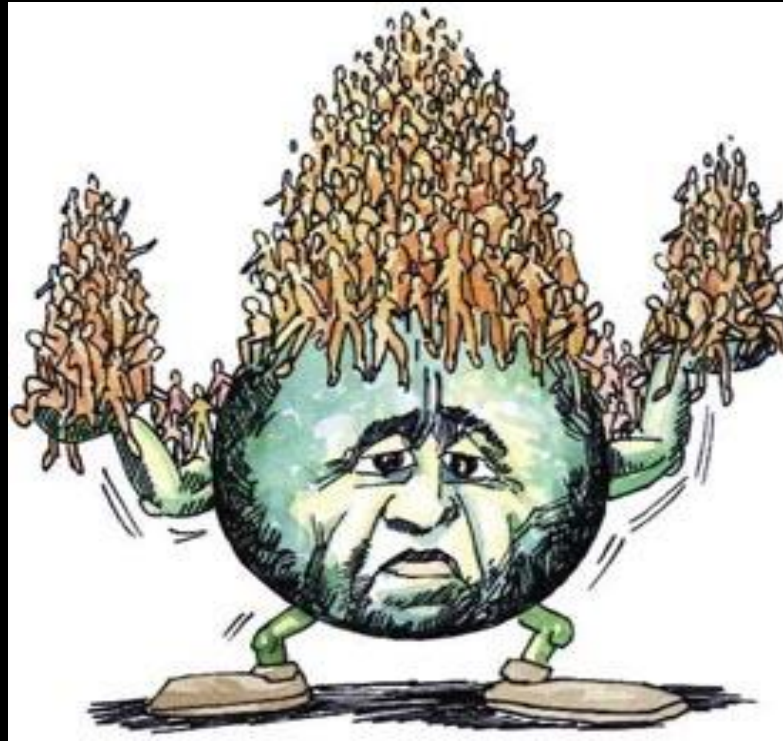
**100 years** to reach **2 billion people**.....

**23 years** to reach **3 billion people**.....

**21 years** to reach **4 billion people**.....

and only

**13 years** to reach **5 billion people**.....



**Today** there are well over

**6 BILLION (6,000,000,000) PEOPLE**

**How** has this happened?

**Why** has this happened?

**What** will happen next?

**Geography  
Matters!**

Our world is a living world.

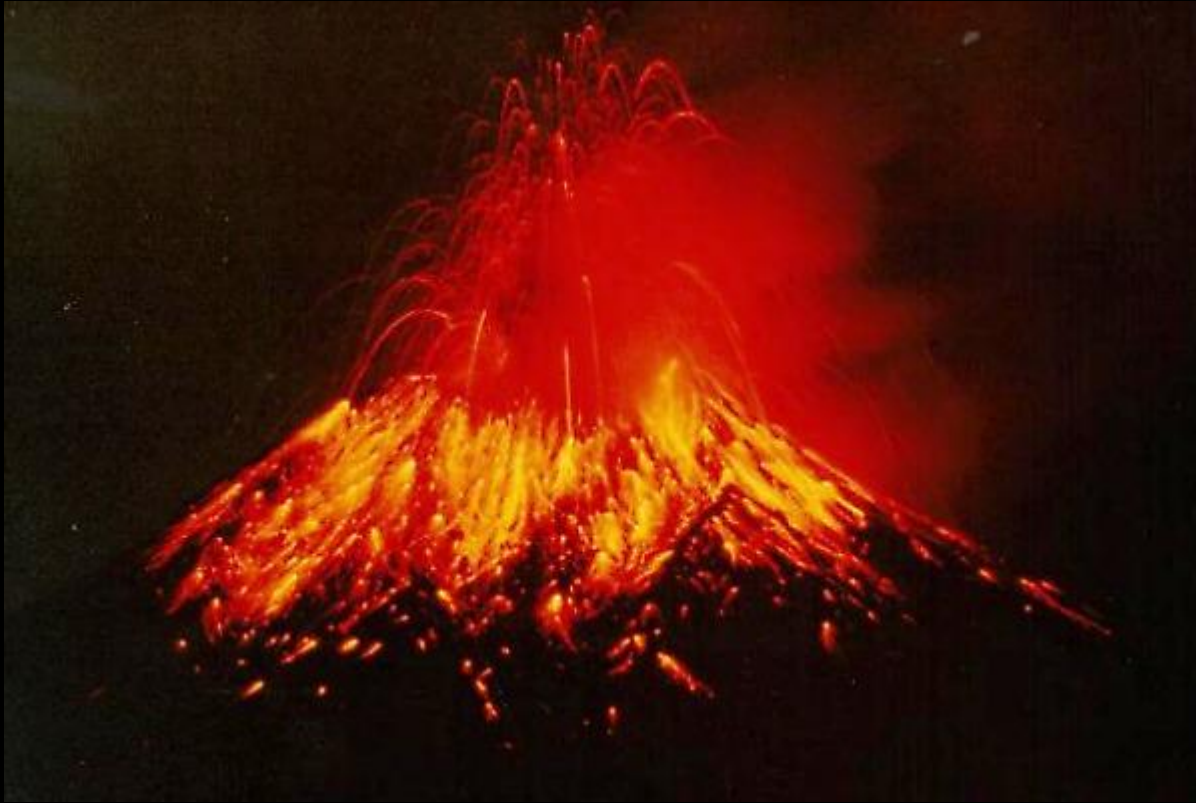
Every day it changes.

Some of the changes are natural.....

.....and some are caused by people.



Natural forces are at work **shaping our planet**.....



....and **tourists** come long distances just to see a beautiful volcano glowing in the night sky.

Elsewhere, millions of people choose to **live** and **work** in these dangerous locations.



**Why are they there?**

# Geography Matters!

We know the Earth used to be covered by millions of hectares of **natural forest** and **grassland**.



Today, these are gone or rapidly disappearing..... **does anyone care?**

# Geography Matters!

Many people wonder why geographers spend so much of their time trying to understand **how rivers work**.....



**These people  
know why!**

# Geography Matters!

Some natural events are fortunately **very rare**.....



.....in 2004, we remembered why we need **to understand** and **plan** for these rare natural events!!

# Geography Matters!

On our beautiful but complex planet, everything that happens is **linked** to everything else. When we....

- drop a piece of **litter**
- chop down a **tree**
- build a **motorway**
- fertilise the **fields**
- Buy food in the **supermarket**

.....the planet knows.

Natural changes are replaced by  
changes caused by.....

human actions!

**Geography  
Matters!**

Over six billion people living on Earth.

Does everyone have the same **basic services**?



The latest UN **Human Development Report** stated that:  
the world's **500 richest people** own more  
wealth than the world's **poorest 400 million!**



However, we know that it would take just **£3 billion** to provide **clean water** for the 50% of the world that don't currently have it.



**Too much ?**

In Europe we spend more than that each year on **perfume** and **after shave!!**



We could all help to change that situation.....

# Geography Matters!

Some of the differences between groups of people around the world need to be better **understood** and **respected**.....



....it is the differences in **appearance**, **language**, **clothing**, **food** and **culture** that makes the world a fascinating place to learn about.

Other differences may require action....



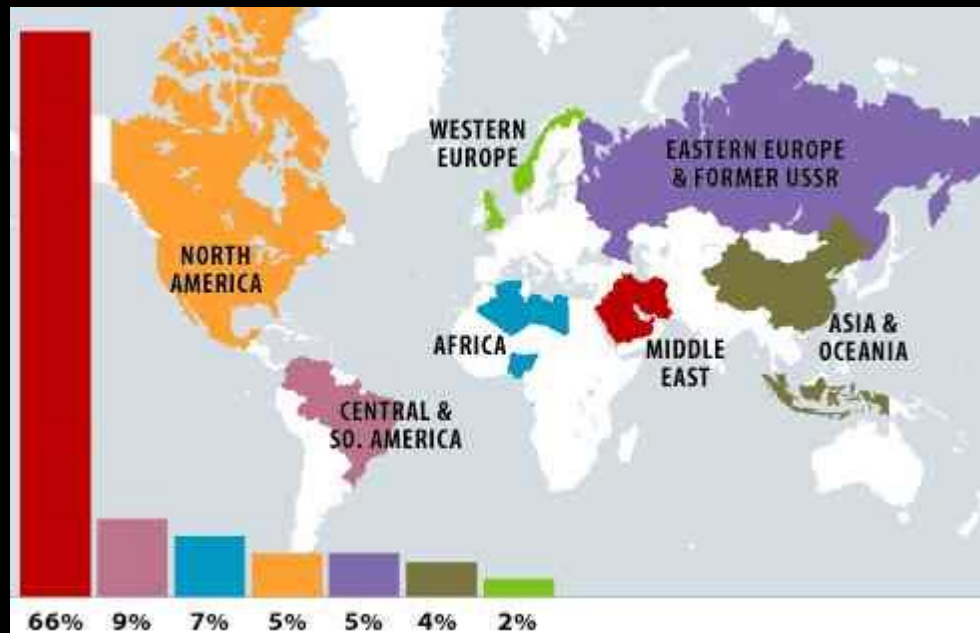
.....our **HELP, SUPPORT** or more **FAIRTRADE**.

We need to know and understand about these differences and what we can do as individuals to help make the world **a better place for everyone**.

We need to be **active** and **responsible**  
**citizens** - every one of us!

# Geography Matters!

Where are those **resources** that we all need to live?



<<< **Oil** for example

[OIL = fuel, plastics, drugs, artificial fibres and much, much more]

**66%** in the **Middle East** and only **2%** in **W. Europe**.

Is it important to know and understand this fact?

Will we have enough of these resources to last your lifetime?

We all need to learn a lot more about .....

**SUSTAINABLE living.**

You can play your part by showing that.....

**Geography  
Matters!**

Geography is about **the world we live in**.....the 'here and now'.

Geography is about **how the world is changing**.....

Geography is about **your world** and about **my world**.....

Geography is about **the future of our world**.

# Geography Matters!

How can anyone live without it?

**Geography  
Matters!**