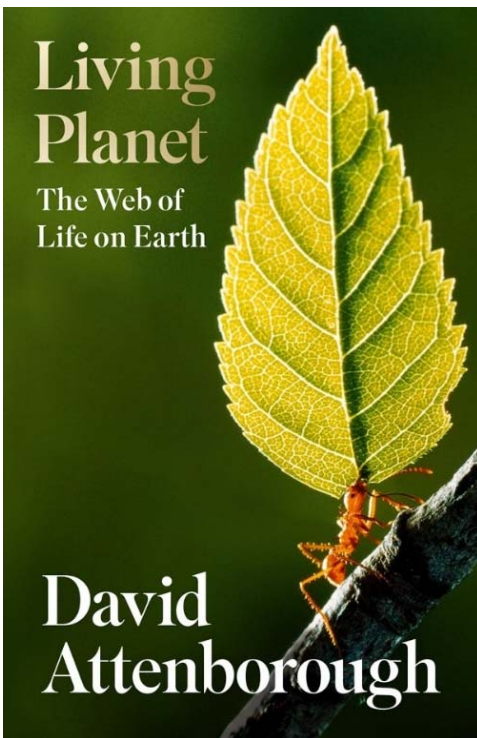


The Literacy Lowdown: Living Planet



A level geography students, remember, you should:

- undertake wider reading
- use factual texts, discursive / creative material

Summary

Living Planet explores life in 12 of the major habitats, from the opening 'Furnaces of the Earth' on Iceland, Krakatau, St Helens, and Yellowstone National Park, to the boreal forests of the Northern hemisphere, and the organisms found on 'The Margins of the Land'.

It finishes: 'as far as we can tell, our planet is the only place in all the black immensities of the universe where life exists...and the continued existence of life now rests in our hands' (p292)

© Peter Finch / Getty Images

Specification links

AQA 3.1.2 Hot desert systems and landscapes OR 3.1.6 Ecosystems under stress.

Edexcel Topic 1: Tectonic Processes and Hazards.

OCR Topic 3.3 – Exploring Oceans. 1. What are the main characteristics of oceans?

WJEC 4.2: Ecosystems. 4.2.1 The value and distribution of ecosystems.

Key quotes

"Another Andean creature, a wild camel called the vicuna, produces one of the most valued of all wools. Its thick fleece insulates it so well that it is in danger of overheating." (p26)

"Perhaps 180 million years ago, Antarctica, attached at first to Australia, drifted south, taking its terrestrial inhabitants with it." (p37)

"Bison are wild cattle. They belong, together with antelope and deer to a huge family of mammals that have evolved a special way of digesting grass. They ruminate." (p110)

"Fog also provides moisture for one of Namib's unique plants, and certainly its most spectacular, Welwitschia." (p137)

"The evidence of the Tassili paintings show how recently it was that a variation in world climate turned fertility into desolation and created the Sahara." (p147)

"If coral reefs are the jungles of the sea, then the surface waters of the open ocean must be its savannahs and plains." (p258)