



Free access to ArcGIS Online to support KS3, GCSE and A Level Geography

**Royal
Geographical
Society**
with IBG

Advancing geography
and geographical learning

Dear Geography Colleague

The use of GIS is an important part of Key Stage 3, GCSE and A Level geography. Beyond the classroom, this spatial technology opens up a variety of careers across the GIS industry. To support the use of GIS, Esri UK has made ongoing access to ArcGIS Online free for all UK schools. Already, over 1700 UK schools have taken up their free subscription, with over 57,000 pupils actively using the software as part of their geographical studies.

From being able to overlay datasets onto maps, to more advanced work collecting, analysing and presenting primary fieldwork data, ArcGIS Online is a key tool for every geography classroom. The free subscription provides access to 2D and 3D maps, with fieldwork apps like Collector and Survey 123 enabling device-based GCSE and A Level investigation data collection. Ordnance Survey maps are also freely available for you to use within ArcGIS Online. Storymaps add a unique way of presenting map-based resources and findings, linked to 'live' maps created in ArcGIS Online.

So, if you have not already done so, we would encourage you to take up a free subscription for your school. Signing up is easy, just follow the instructions at <https://schools.esriuk.com/sign-up/>

Esri UK, the distributor of ArcGIS in the UK, has also invested significant effort in creating a resource centre (<https://schools.esriuk.com/teaching-resources>). It is packed full of curriculum-focussed resources and 'getting started' guides to help you and your students get up and running. There is also a wide range of additional support and training available through Esri's national network of GeoMentors and regular CPD events with the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG). See <https://schools.esriuk.com/geommentor/> and www.rgs.org/teachercpd for details.

Steve Brace, Head of Education at the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG) said "by providing free access to ArcGIS Online, Esri UK is putting this technology within the reach of every geography pupil, and helping to ensure that the next generation of geographers can use this vital geographical technology".

The following awarding bodies have joined together to state 'the use of GIS is identified as a geographical skill within our respective GCSE and A Level specifications and we encourage you to take up your free subscription'.

AQA, OCR, Pearson Edexcel and WJEC/Eduqas

With all best wishes

Esri UK

Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)

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