

Real Geographers series



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Gabriele Radzeviciute is a geography teacher.



What is your occupation?

Geography Teacher

What do you love about geography?

I love that geography is all around us and it plays a big part in our everyday lives, even if sometimes we do not think about it or notice it. I love learning about environmental and human interactions and how those interactions shape our landscapes, understanding, perceptions and everyday lives.

Geography is such a broad and diverse subject that provides global awareness, knowledge and solutions to current environmental issues and of course transferable skills that opens doors to a variety of different career paths – with geography you don't have to box yourself into a specific career, there are many! Geography also develops you as an analytical thinker as you will be constantly learning about current environmental, societal and political affairs and issues. All the geographical and other skills such as communication, GIS, problem-solving and decision making, will make you not only a well-rounded person but also stand out from graduates in other degree disciplines.

Why does geography matter in the world?

Our world is so globalised today, thus learning about other communities, traditions, countries, economies and people is crucial to be able to understand global issues related to climate change, migration, conflicts, pandemics and consumption, to name a few.

Additionally, most of the businesses today are international and interconnected between different countries. Geography can give that knowledge



of understanding cultures and working practices, which will help a person to succeed in a job or business, as well as to become globally aware and empathetic towards others. Furthermore, geography helps us to learn how societies have developed in the past and help us to plan for the future. Same with physical geography, it helps us to learn how processes happened in the past, so we can anticipate what is to happen in the future and plan for it accordingly.

Why did you decide to become a geography teacher?

When I was a student, I had such inspirational geography teachers who supported my passion and curiosity for geography. They encouraged me to pursue geography at A-Level and then for an undergraduate degree. It made me realise that I want to give something back to education. I became a geography teacher in hope that I can engage more students to see the importance of geography in everyday life and inspire more students to choose geography at university, postgraduate studies or as a career.

Why do you think it is important to get students excited about geography as a subject?

Soon these students will be the ones that will have to make decisions, innovative and effective solutions to different geographical issues that our world is and will face. Having that foundational knowledge of physical and human geography will help them to make sensible judgements and decisions and will prompt them to become better and more aware global citizens. They will then have the skills and knowledge needed to make positive change for our environment and societies.





What are your most pressing environmental concerns? / What environmental issues should we all care about?

Firstly, I think the one environmental concern that only a few talks about is food waste. According to the [Institute of Food Science & Technology](#), every year 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted. All this food could feed so many hungry people, who cannot afford it. Therefore, I strongly believe that we need to work towards wasting less food, starting with learning how to consume food sustainably and using that food surplus for a good cause to feed those that require healthy nutrition.

My second environmental concern is the need to start caring more about land and air pollution. Human industrial activities, unsustainable agriculture, mining for resources, chemical factories are all degrading our land, soil and air quality by releasing natural and man-made chemicals in very high concentrations, which in turn affects human health and the health of the environment worldwide. With most of the man-made chemicals, we don't know the long-term effects on human and environmental health, but we do know that the land and air will become more polluted as more countries develop, become wealthier and need ways to sustain their economies.

Where is your favourite destination in the world from the point of view of a geographer?

I love volcanoes, so for me, my favourite destination would be somewhere where there is a volcano that I can visit and explore all of the unique geological landforms and deposits it creates. Volcanic landscapes show the interaction between humans and nature perfectly, they can bring so many benefits to the communities living nearby but at the same time can make those communities very vulnerable and at-risk in a matter of minutes.

What would you say to students passionate about the world and thinking about taking their geography studies further?

Geography is such a versatile subject and can lead to a broad range of career pathways. It is also a very valued subject in workplaces as geography graduates have a variety of different transferable, practical, soft and field skills, as well as that broad understanding of the physical and human environment that can strongly support other subjects.



I would encourage them to read around the subject, look at the possible career paths and research in detail university courses that offer geography degrees to find the one that suits them. Speak to their geography teacher and keep up to date with geography news.

[The Royal Geographical Society](#) is a great source of information about all the possibilities of taking your geography studies further.

What tips do you have for schools, teachers and pupils on being more sustainable/eco-friendly?

Get involved in environmental volunteering within your communities. It is a good way to not only support your community but also meet like-minded people who also care about making the local community and the environment a better place for the future. Volunteering will also give students the opportunity to put their knowledge of the environment into practice, prompting individuals to become even more environmentally aware and possibly even encouraging them to learn more. Community volunteering could be a drive for social action, which would also encourage students to be curious to find solutions to current environmental issues, such as climate change, food waste, land and air contamination, as well as inspire them to become advocates for sustainable future.

For more inspiration on why Geography matters in the world, and our Real Geographers series, go to:
[Historians and Geographers of the future](#)