

An armchair introduction to A-Level geography: Week 3

This week is about heightening your sense of awe and wonder for the world we inhabit, something as geographers we have in abundance. Simon Reeve is a journalist, writer and broadcaster who has certainly helped bring the world to our living rooms. He shows the natural beauty of the landscape, but also asks difficult questions in the countries and communities he has visited.

This week, we'd like you to watch the first episode of his most recent TV series, 'The Americas with Simon Reeve', it is available on BBC IPlayer;

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00095nt/the-americas-with-simon-reeve-series-1-episode-1>

Watch the episode, it focuses on a landscape of wild beauty, enormous distances and diverse wildlife, but also unsustainable economic development and resource exploitation. Whilst watching, look out for these issues that interest us as geographers and feature in the Edexcel A level spec;

- Climate change on a local, national and international scale
- The Trans Alaskan Pipeline – energy security vs environmental disruption
- Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) – the opinions of a range of stakeholders over its future
- Alberta Tar Sands – economic growth vs environmental damage

Want to know more...? Of course you do! Here are some links to find out more about the issues raised in this episode...

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/07012020/arctic-drilling-trump-oil-gas-lease-sales-anwr-wildlife-refuge-petroleum-reserve-offshore>

<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/arctic-village-alaska-frontlines-climate-change>

<https://ourworld.unu.edu/en/canadas-oil-sands>

Smitten with Simon...? (Aren't we all...)

Listen to these podcasts;

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/audio/2018/oct/02/around-the-world-with-simon-reeve-and-neil-macgregor-books-podcast> 26 minutes in

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p06zhsts>

Or read his book;

<https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/show/40311472-step-by-step>