

Armchair Geography: Switched on / switched off places

Following on from the materials sent out by Mr Lang a few weeks ago, this 'Armchair Geography' task will look at globalisation in a bit more depth. In particular how some countries appear to be much more 'switched on' to the effects of globalisation than others. Questions to consider whilst undertaking these tasks are:

- How uneven is the spread of globalisation around the world?
- Where /who are the more 'globalised' nations?
- Which regions of the world are more 'switched on' / 'switched off' to globalisation?

Suggested tasks:

1. Take a look at the following websites. Think about how they illustrate the ways in which different places are more/less 'connected'? Have a good browse through them and consider some of the questions we've posed below...
 - o **Marine Traffic: Shows live shipping traffic.** Where are the main ports for global shipping? What commodities are being carried? (*you can click on vessels to see what they're carrying / where they're going!*) Where are the shipping companies based? What does this tell us about global trade? <https://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/home/centerx:-12.0/centery:25.0/zoom:2>
 - o **Flight Radar: Shows live air traffic.** <https://www.flightradar24.com/26.51,25.32/2> Where are the major transport hubs? Which areas of the world have more/fewer flights? Remember that most flights are the moment will be carrying freight, rather than tourists. How might you expect this map to have looked before the Covid outbreak? How would tourism normally affect places around the world?
 - o **World Trade Cloud:** <http://wits.worldbank.org/visualization/trade-cloud-visualization.html> (you can toggle between exports/imports on the right-hand side.). Which regions/nations are key players in global trade? Who are the less significant players? Why might this be?
 - o This final webpage shows the **speed of internet access around the world**. Have a read through the information and look at the maps/data tables. <https://www.atlasandboots.com/remote-work/countries-with-the-fastest-internet-in-the-world/> Consider how this would restrict the flows of culture, ideas and information, and thus the effect on people's lives. How would aspects of world trade be affected by this, especially e-commerce? Can you imagine your life without the internet?! How different would it be?
2. It is clear from the maps above that some parts of the world undoubtedly remain less globalised than others. Take a look at this site, which looks at an examples of what is known as '*technological leapfrogging*'. It looks at the way in which mobile phone technology is being used in Kenya (and many other nations now!) to transform people's lives and allow people to access finance, buy/sell goods more easily, as well as access healthcare. <http://www.theperspective.se/technological-leapfrogging-and-development-the-example-of-kenya/>

This webpage also has a short video clip that explains briefly how it works:

<http://www.fao.org/e-agriculture/news/10-years-m-pesa-worlds-most-successful-money-transfer-service>

Notice this is a Vodafone clip, so a bit biased – they own Safari-Com! - but nevertheless, think about the positive impacts this technology can have on people. What barriers might still exist that prevent people from benefiting from this type of technology?