



ENVIRONMENTAL GEOCHEMISTRY WITH PROFESSOR KATE SPENCER AND DR JONATHAN WHEATLAND

TALKING POINTS

1. What is suspended particulate matter (SPM) composed of and what can it include?
2. What are the general dimensions of SPM?
3. For what reason can SPM be easily suspended by water and travel immense distances?
4. Why do you think SPM helps to sustain marine life?
5. What is unique about Kate and Jonathan's research into SPM?
6. What techniques have environmental and Earth scientists previously used to look at the internal structure of sediments and soils?

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

- The British Geological Survey (BGS) is truly a wonderful resource for those looking to become geoscientists. One of their many initiatives is OpenGeoscience, which boasts a number of datasets designed to boost research in the area. You should spend time poring over the entire website, but their Geology of Britain viewer is particularly fascinating.
- BGS also hosts information about specific projects. The page gives a useful overview of the considerations of environmental geochemists and what many of them are attempting to address. There are an impressive number of projects which BGS has been involved with. We encourage you to have a read!

REACH OUT TO QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON'S SCHOOL OF GEOGRAPHY

Queen Mary University of London's School (QMUL's) of Geography offers a wide variety of public outreach activities that are aimed at young people. The team host the East London Branch of the Geographical Association, which features an enormous number of activities for teachers and sixth formers. The 2019/20 programme will give you some idea of the breadth of what takes place there.

In addition to that, the School of Geography is in contact with around 200 schools in London and south-east England who regularly participate in outreach activities, including those outlined below:

- A range of termly after-school workshops for students and staff focusing on skills required for the Geography NEA at A-level
- A large number of undergraduate ambassador visits to local secondary schools and sixth form colleges to promote and support geography and environmental science as an option at 13+, 15+ and 18+
- An annual taster day covering geography and environmental science as part of the University of London Scheme
- An academic mentoring scheme called Stepping Stones with three local schools involving a mix of academic tutoring and broader mentoring over a three-month period each year

The Geography Ambassador scheme has been established to introduce students to the benefits of studying geography. If you are interested in becoming part of the scheme, you can email the team there at ambassadors@rgs.org.

For more information about the activities the QMUL's School of Geography is involved with, please visit the East London Branch of the Geographical Association's website.