

**NISBET'S SELF-HELP
GEOGRAPHY: WORLD
COMMUNICATIONS BY
LAND, SEA, AND OCEAN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649158270

Nisbet's Self-help Geography: World Communications by Land, Sea, and Ocean by H. R. Sweeting

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H. R. SWEETING

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COUNTRY IN WHICH COMMUNICATIONS ARE DIFFICULT, EITHER
BY WATER OR BY LAND.

*(This is a Crook or Transverse River. See how the layers of rock lie
and notice the foam of the water.)*

52.

NISBET'S SELF-HELP GEOGRAPHY SERIES

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS
BY LAND, SEA AND OCEAN

BY

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22 BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W 1

PREFACE

THIS third book is intended to be the link between the knowledge of climates and regions of the World, with their crops and occupations, and the actual everyday means of work and life in the present.

By dealing with the means of Transport, the difficulties of cheap moving of raw materials and the speed of modern communications in this volume, an introduction is provided for the book on Minerals, Manufactures and Commerce ; at the same time the effects of modern inventions on the inhabitants of different parts of the world have been noticed, for the human results of facts are the really important items of our knowledge.

Much has been made of the positions of ports, partly because so much colonial history depends on the supply of harbours, partly because it is one more effect on men's lives of the prevailing winds. The ocean currents, too, are of considerable effect on men, both in the choice of routes by sailors, in the modification of coast climates and in the possibility of using certain ports during the winter.

The number of facts introduced is considerable, but care should be taken to use them so as to discover their results, not merely to remember them for their own value.

The introduction, here, of some facts and ideas not usually included in " Geography " is deliberate ; nothing

is more fatal to clear thinking than labelling facts in compartments named by school "subjects"; to some pupils the discovery that twice two has the same result in Algebra as in Arithmetic is regarded as little short of marvellous! History, geography, economics and our own lives are not separate and distinct studies.

In practice it will be found that a great deal of local information, already "known" to the pupils, can be utilized; every one has travelled, even if only in a cart or tram; every one has seen some transport of heavy goods or raw materials. All such knowledge and experience should be used as foundations for the building up of new facts and their effects.

The two indexes have been made very full; it is of great importance that pupils should be able to use a book themselves for obtaining information, and use it with intelligence.

It is hoped that the inclusion of some maps with contoured highlands will lead to the disappearance of the old-fashioned "caterpillar" shape of mountains, which were of such unnatural regularity in width.

The questions are intended as types, not as a complete set of all that can be used.

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SELF-HELP GEOGRAPHY

BOOK III

CHAPTER I

MEANS OF COMMUNICATION

1. WHAT IS MEANT BY "COMMUNICATIONS"

In the days long ago when men first lived in villages, some of them used to spend all their time learning and working at some occupation needing skill, but which was not producing food; some were first-rate fighters, some could build excellent fences and ditches for defence, some could thatch well; and so by degrees a certain number were permanently employed at such work, but were provided with food by the rest of the population.

Such villages still exist in some of the uncivilized parts of the world and are common among the black tribes. You can read descriptions of them in the travels of men who have been among the Kafirs of S.E. Africa or the Mashonas of Central Africa.

In time, villages began to join their forces to fight a common enemy, and a commander was needed; this leader became by degrees not only a military commander but judge too; so that at last there arose the practice of having a king over a whole tribe, which inhabited many villages some-

"Communi-
cations."