



Unit 5: Sligo – A Story in Images and Maps

New Words

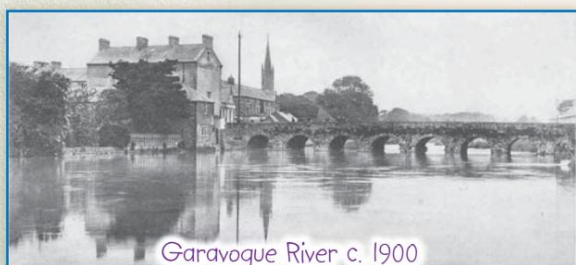
megalithic	folklore	cartographer	Global Positioning System	latitude	longitude
		prime meridian	terrain	contour lines	

The Work of Geographers

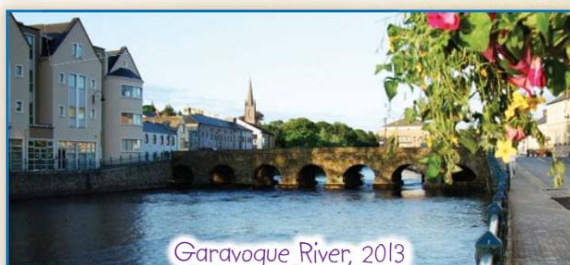
Geographers examine the landscape of an area and find out how it affects the people living there. They also look at the impact that humans have on the natural environment. The people living in an area interact with each other and the environment in a way that is special to that place. The homes they build, clothes they wear and jobs they do are all related in some way to the natural environment. Places are continuously changing. A forest may have been cleared to make way for a factory. A housing estate may have been built on land that was once in the grounds of a castle. Geographers describe and find out the reasons behind the changes.

Sligo

Sligo is located in the northwest of Ireland, in the province of Connacht. It is a maritime (coastal) county, with a once-thriving port and long, sandy beaches. The county's Irish name is Sligeach, which means 'shelly place'. The Garavogue River flows through the centre of the town and reaches the Atlantic Ocean at Sligo Bay. Middens (ancient rubbish tips) containing shells have been found along the banks of the river.



Garavogue River c. 1900



Garavogue River, 2013

Hot History

Claudius Ptolemy was a geographer and astronomer who lived in Egypt while it was part of the Roman Empire. Around 150 AD, he wrote a series of manuscripts called *Geographia*, which contained an atlas. His map of the world included 'Ivernia' (Hibernia/Ireland) and 'Albion' (Britain). The original map has not survived, but was copied by hand many times, often by monks.

Hot History

Carrowmore in Sligo is the largest megalithic burial site in Ireland. The word 'megalithic' refers to a structure made of large, overlapping stones. These structures were generally built in the late Stone Age. Sligo has been populated since around 5000 BC. The county has many archaeological sites and a wealth of folklore and mythology.

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A Prospect of Sligo by Thomas Phillips

by the Normans in 1253. A small settlement of houses developed beside the castle, as people felt it was a safe location. The residents may have worked for the family that lived in the castle and traded with their soldiers.

The painting of Sligo on the right is from a postcard printed in 1910. The town has grown and developed since 1685. The castle was destroyed and rebuilt several times during the years, but not even the ruins remain now. In the middle of the picture stands the tower of the ruins of Sligo Abbey. Other important buildings have been constructed. The steeples belong to a Catholic cathedral, a Church of Ireland cathedral and a courthouse.

A Recent Image of Sligo

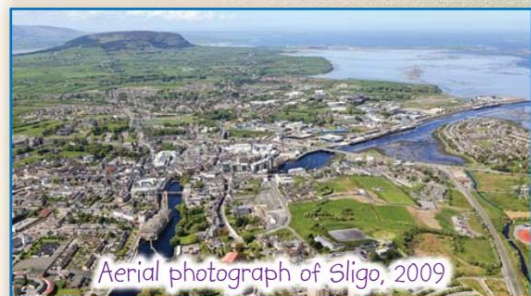
The aerial photograph on the right shows how the town has grown and spread out on both sides of the Garavogue River. The town is now the second largest urban settlement in the province of Connacht. The population was recorded as 19,452 in the 2011 Census.

Historical Images of Sligo

In 1685, Thomas Phillips made the drawing on the left of Sligo Town. The town sits in a horseshoe shape, with Benbulbin Mountain in the background. Near the centre of the picture, you can see a Norman castle, which was built in 1245. On the right stands Sligo Abbey, which was also built



Postcard from Sligo, 1910



Aerial photograph of Sligo, 2009

Activities

A. Answer the Questions.

1. What does a geographer do?
2. Name an Ancient Roman geographer.
3. What was the ancient name for Ireland?
4. Where is Sligo located?
5. What river flows through Sligo Town?
6. What is an estuary?
7. For how long has Sligo been populated?
8. What may you see at Carrowmore?
9. What two buildings did the Normans construct in Sligo?

B. Explain the Following Words/Phrases.

1. maritime county
2. aerial photograph
3. census
4. urban settlement
5. midden
6. archaeological site
7. megalithic
8. folklore
9. mythology

Subject: Geography Strand: Human Environments
Strand Unit: People Living and Working in a Changing Part of Ireland

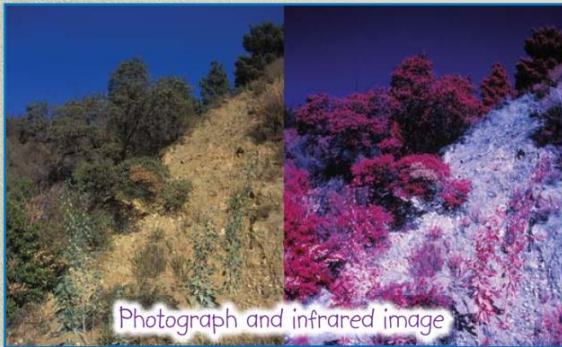
Subject: Science Strand: Environmental Awareness and Care
Strand Unit: Environmental Awareness



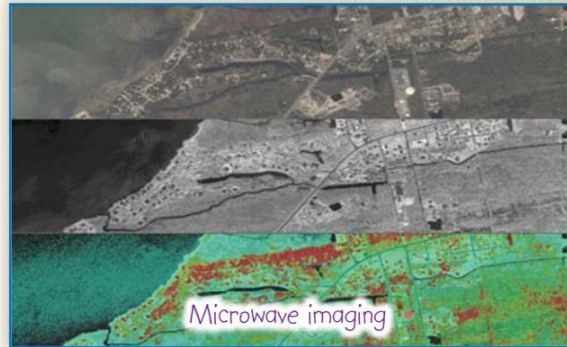
Geography and Technology

Plans, maps, models, photographs, graphs and other forms of data are important for geographers. Long ago, geographers had to visit an area to draw sketches or simple maps. Nowadays, they use technology in their work. Satellites that take images from outer space and computers linked to remote sensors can give them very accurate information about the surface of the Earth. However, because the Earth is round, it is impossible to draw a flat map that is completely accurate.

Infrared images: These allow cartographers to detect the temperature of objects on the ground and map the locations of life forms such as plants and animals.



Photograph and infrared image



Microwave imaging

Microwaves: By scanning the Earth using microwaves, geographers can produce a map that shows what exists beneath the surface of the ground.

Radar and sonar: These work by sending out radio signals or sound waves and then waiting for them to bounce off the ground and return. By measuring the length of time it takes for the signals to return, it is possible to create a very accurate map of an area. Radar works well through thick clouds and rainfall. Sonar is used to map underwater areas and to find fish.

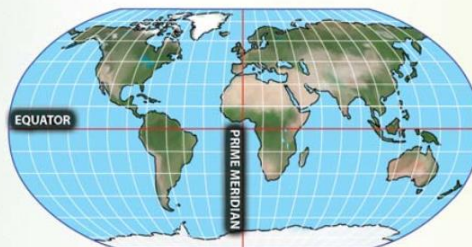
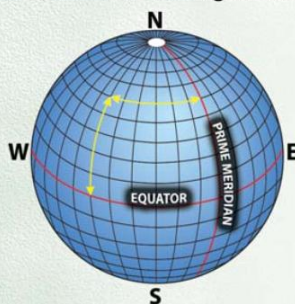


Sound wave

Returning wave (echo)

Latitude and Longitude

Cartographers developed a grid and co-ordinates system to describe the location of any feature on Earth. Imaginary horizontal lines of latitude and vertical lines of longitude are drawn around the Earth. The main line of latitude is the equator at 0°. Locations are described as being north (N) or south (S) of the equator. The main line of longitude is



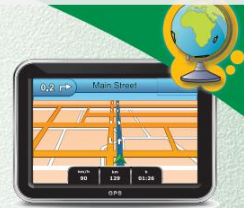
the prime meridian, which runs through Greenwich in London. Locations are described as being east (E) or west (W) of this line. The co-ordinates for Sligo are 54.3° N, 8.4° W.

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Global Positioning System

The Global Positioning System (GPS) uses a network of satellites orbiting the Earth to provide co-ordinates for, and directions to, a given location. Smart phones and in-car navigation devices use the GPS.



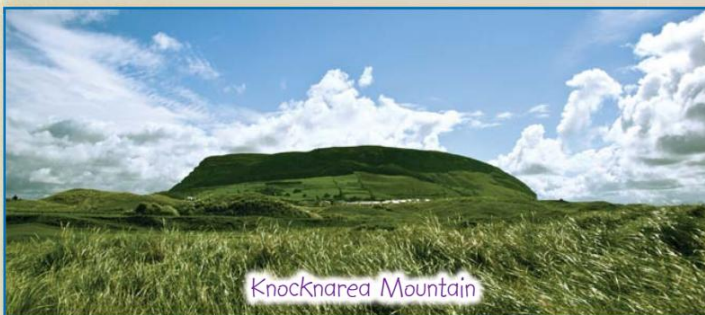
Navigation device

Ordnance Survey

Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) produces maps of many styles. The OSI map below includes Sligo. It contains useful information for visitors. Main roads are coloured green and smaller roads are coloured brown. Minor roads are coloured yellow. The colours used for the landscape tell us how high the terrain (ground) is. Seas, rivers and lakes are coloured blue. The symbols on the map show the location of features that may be of interest to visitors. A legend or key is used to explain the symbols on a map.



Legend



Knocknarea Mountain

Knocknarea Mountain

It is said that Queen Maeve's tomb is situated on top of Knocknarea Mountain. Visitors to Knocknarea Mountain are encouraged to place a stone on Maeve's Cairn (a man-made pile of stones) at its summit. This is said to bring good luck!

Subject: Geography Strand: Human Environments

Strand Unit: People Living and Working in a Contrasting Part of Ireland

Subject: Science Strand: Environmental Awareness and Care

Strand Unit: Environmental Awareness

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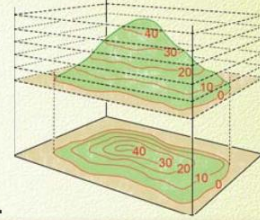
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A Closer Look at Knocknarea

The map below is a 2D representation of an area in Sligo known as the Coolera Peninsula. Colours and lines are used to give us an image of what the area is really like. The land just above sea level is coloured green. Higher land is shown with other shades/colours. A contour line drawn on a map joins points of equal height above sea level. If you look at Knocknarea Mountain, you will see a series of contour lines counting upwards at 10 metre intervals (gaps). The summit is labelled at 327 metres. Contour lines give us an idea of the shape of the mountain. The closer they are to each other, the steeper the slope is.



A Closer Look at Strandhill

Strandhill is very popular with surfers. Strandhill Beach and Culleenamore Strand are coloured yellow on the map above. Strandhill Village has many amenities to attract tourists. You can see a caravan park, camping site and a golf course marked on the map. Many people working in Sligo Town (8 km away) choose to live in Strandhill to enjoy these amenities in their leisure time. New housing estates, shops and a petrol station have been built as a result. You can see a post office and a school marked on the map.

Activities

A. Explain the Following Words/Phrases.

1. cartographer
2. GPS
3. sonar
4. lines of latitude
5. lines of longitude
6. legend
7. terrain
8. summit
9. amenities
10. contour lines

B Write True or False for Each of the Following.

1. Sligo is an inland county.
2. Mayo is a maritime county.
3. The equator is a line of longitude.
4. The prime meridian runs through Greenwich.
5. Contour lines are used to join places of equal population.

C. Unscramble the Following Sentences.

1. for famous scenery Sligo is its beautiful
2. line A contour height sea level joins of equal points above
3. navigation Smart and phones in-car system GPS use the
4. terrain Sonar is and used to find to map underwater fish

