

Irish Sporting Heritage

Geography Students

Leaving Certificate

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Rational

The Irish Sporting Heritage Project is concerned with Ireland's sporting landscape over the past 150 years. It will help students to develop an understanding of their physical and human surroundings while contributing to a national record of the country's built heritage. By gathering multiple case studies the Sporting Heritage Project will build a comprehensive record of Ireland's changing landscape. This type of case study is suitable for the Investigative and Skills Unit of the curriculum.

Aims for Geography Students

1. To develop a knowledge and understanding of the physical and human environment
2. To promote an awareness of spatial, structural and temporal patterns using local examples
3. To develop an understanding of the impact of transport, communication, economic and social networks on the development of sporting sites
4. To promote an understanding of the importance of sporting sites to the development of local and national identities
5. To encourage students to participate in the documentation and appreciation of local heritage

Skills

- Map interpretation
- Photographic analysis
- Using geographical information systems
- Planning a geographical investigation
- Data collection
- The use of documentary sources
- Report planning
- Analysis and presentation of results and conclusions

Activities

1. Select a sporting site for investigation (eg. The Markets Field, Limerick, Lahinch Golf Club or a less well-known local site)
2. Interpret the location from maps and aerial photographs
3. Explain the local significance of the site: history, name, sport type, community activity
4. Use local directories to investigate the changing use of land and interview local historians
5. Use questionnaires or surveys to compile data on venue use
6. Use census data to explain the demographic make-up of the area
7. Map the transport links to the area
8. Compile contemporary and historical photographs of the venue

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The Geographical Investigation and Skills Unit

POSING THE PROBLEM AND DEVISING A STRATEGY

Select a topic for investigation (ie. sports stadium, racecourse, golf course or other sporting venue)

Aim of study:

Use one of the following as a guideline:

- To study the development of a sporting site: building of a stadium, laying out track facilities within a venue, extension or contraction of venue etc
- To explore land use over time: (eg. a sports ground which has been demolished and is now used for a different purpose)
- To explore the history of a sporting site which was planned for a redevelopment that has since been suspended (eg. Cusack Park in Ennis)

Outline of objectives:

Use one of the following as a guideline:

- To assess the impact of the sporting site on the local environment, infrastructure and/or community
- To examine planning and land zoning proposals in the location before or after it became a sports ground

Identification of the types of information required:

Surveys, observation and recording in the field will be the primary source for investigation including:

- Street surveys of land use or building condition
- Study of employment opportunities within the site
- Measure of traffic and pedestrian flows

- Analysis of development plans and planning proposals
- Study of local directories: historical and present day
- Interviews with local historians and librarians
- Study of maps and photographs of site

COLLECTION OF DATA

- Use instruments to take measurements of the site
- Keep records of the observations you make in the field
- Draw up a survey to assess current land use: profile of visitors to the site (approx age, gender etc); purpose in visiting the site (eg. sport, social, cultural, political, religious); numbers visiting the site
- Use relevant secondary sources
- Discuss the problems encountered

PREPARATION OF REPORT

Organise data using illustrations, maps, graphs and tables

CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION

- Analyse and interpret the results
- Draw valid conclusions
- Compare the findings with established theory
- Evaluate the hypothesis
- Examine the validity of the investigation and suggestions for improvements

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