



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

Geographical Investigation

A Rationale

What *is* an Investigation?

An investigation is essentially learning through activity on the part of students. It is the study of the environment at first hand under the guidance of the teacher.

Students observe, map, measure and record what they see in the real world and thus motivation is high in that their success is related to their own efforts.

Why Investigate?

Learning by doing - Experiential Learning

Co-operative Learning / Team Work

Active / school based learning

Active Methodologies

Teaching for Understanding

Assessment for Learning

Individual and/or Group Work

Develops a sense of place

Transports students out of the classroom

Geographical Investigation

The Geographical Investigation is a Core area of study and is compulsory for all students

Annual list of topics

Primary & Secondary sources to be used

Exam weighting of 20%

Investigation Skills

Map Interpretation

Photograph Analysis

Statistical Analysis

ICT

GIS

Planning

Data Collection

Use of Documentary Sources

Report Planning

Analysis & Interpretation of Results & Conclusions

Learning Outcomes _ Ordinary Level

- 🌍 **Understand, use & apply some or all skills listed**
- 🌍 **Work through the distinct stages of a Geographical Investigation**
- 🌍 **Use statistical analysis and I.T in the interpretation of basic results and conclusions**
- 🌍 **Experience, where possible, working conditions similar to those likely to be encountered in employment**

Learning Outcomes _ Higher Level

- 🌐 Understand, use & apply skills listed to complete investigation
- 🌐 Work through the distinct stages of investigation
- 🌐 Use statistical & information technology in the interpretation & analysis of results & conclusions
- 🌐 Analyse & evaluate their work and make comparisons with other studies
- 🌐 Experience, where possible, working conditions similar to those likely to be encountered in the world at work

Health & Safety

Daily weather forecasts

Times of tides

Right of way

Country Code

Identify potential hazards

Common sense approach

5 Points to Organising Fieldwork

1.Planning: What is the focus of the trip? Where will you visit? Who will take you? What will they do when you arrive? How many students/ teachers? How long will it take? What will be the follow up work? What will be the learning outcomes? The cost?

2.School Policy: Is there a school policy? Inform Principal. Will you need extra teachers? Need to inform BOM?

3. Do a reccy

How long does it take to get there?

Where will they have lunch?

What will they visit?

What will they do there?

Do you need to prepare Activity Sheets?

How will you time activities?

Do you need to book?

Does the place have guidance to help you?

What about toilets?

Places to sit down?

4. Letters to parents/ guardians. Include;

- Purpose of trip
- Cost
- Any special equipment, lunch, clipboard etc.
- Times of departure and return
- Reply/ permission slip

5. Check:

- Permission slips have been returned
- Collect Money
- Worksheets copied
- List of student names / home ph. numbers/ any special needs/ Medical Conditions
- Mobile Phone
- First Aid Kit

Data Sources: Primary

Data collected in the field;

- ✓ Photography
- ✓ Field sketching
- ✓ Measurements / Counting
- ✓ Observations
- ✓ Surveys
- ✓ Transects
- ✓ Questionnaires
- ✓ Samples
- ✓ Interviews/Oral History

Data Sources: Secondary

- ✓ **Text Books / Encyclopaedias**
- ✓ **Maps (Old, Town Plan etc)**
- ✓ **Library Records**
- ✓ **www**
- ✓ **Satellite Images**
- ✓ **Small Area Pop.Statistics (SAPS)**
- ✓ **County Development Plan**
- ✓ **Local Newspaper**
- ✓ **Local Authorities**
- ✓ **Census Data**
- ✓ **Parish Records**
- ✓ **Electoral Registers**
- ✓ **Thoms / Picketts Directories**
- ✓ **Photographs (Lawrence Collection)**
- ✓ **Company Literature**
- ✓ **Statistics**
- ✓ **Local History Books**

Ways of presenting data:

☞ **Maps**

☞ **Diagrams**

☞ **Fieldsketches**

☞ **Pie Charts**

☞ **Line Graphs**

☞ **Choropleth maps**

☞ **Bar Graphs**

☞ **Pictogram**

☞ **Flowlines**

☞ **Photographs**

☞ **Cross / Long Profiles**

☞ **Scatter Graphs**

Fieldwork Equipment

- ☯ Maps
- ☯ Surveys
- ☯ Clinometer
- ☯ Calipers
- ☯ Measuring Tape
- ☯ Meter Stick
- ☯ Compass
- ☯ Stopwatch
- ☯ Recording sheets
- ☯ Ranging Poles
- ☯ Clipboard
- ☯ Worksheets
- ☯ Viewfinder
- ☯ Quadrat
- ☯ Calculator
- ☯ Camera
- ☯ Wellies
- ☯ Disposable/rubber gloves
- ☯ Pebbleometer
- ☯ Notebook & pens/pencil
- ☯ Landuse Classification Key
- ☯ Micrometer
- ☯ Spade
- ☯ Sample bottles
- ☯ pH Soil Kit
- ☯ First Aid Kit

The Value of Planning

A Geography Department offers teachers the opportunity to;

- ✓ Establish common purpose & direction in geography teaching
- ✓ Develop communication with colleagues in order to:
 - Share good practice
 - Provide mutual support
 - Review subject needs
- ✓ Manage subject resources
- ✓ Enhance continuity & progression in student learning through coordinated planning and subject development
- ✓ Coordinate assessment practices

Useful Websites



www.scoilnet.ie



www.gsi.ie



www.epa.ie



www.cso.ie



<http://www.georesources.co.uk/darentfte.htm>



<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/sosteacher/answers/answer>



<http://www.zephrus.demon.co.uk/geography/resources/fieldwork>



<http://www.ireland.com/weather/tides.htm>

