



Aerial Photographs
Geography – Junior Cert
Quick Notes

Aerial Photographs

An aerial photograph is a picture of an area – urban, coastal or rural – at a particular time. Aerial photographs may be vertical or oblique. The location on vertical photographs is described by means of compass points e.g. north, south, centre. The location on oblique photos is described using the background, centre and foreground method. The presence of castles, round towers, graveyards or churches on a map indicates ancient settlement. Urban settlement would be indicated by flat, low-lying land, a nearby river, a bridge or a coastal location. The presence of schools and universities on a map provide an educational function whereas the presence of a large number of houses provides a residential function. From a photograph, it may be possible to say what the dominant activity is on the photograph. For example, the presence of industrial estates and roads indicate secondary activities.