



Settlement

Geography – Junior Cert

Quick Notes

Settlement

The first settlers arrived in Ireland in about 7000 BC and they were known as Stone Age people. They arrived via land-bridges which were narrow strips of land connecting Ireland to Britain. New Stone Age people arrived in 5000 BC and the Celts arrived between 1000 BC and 600 BC. Iron Age settlers arrived around 300 BC. These settlers introduced farming to Ireland. There are three types of settlement- nucleated (AKA clustered), linear and dispersed. Nucleated settlement is clustered settlement or settlements grouped together. Factors influencing distribution of nucleated settlement in Ireland may be physical (e.g. altitude, drainage patterns, land quality) or social (historical factors – e.g. the Viking influence, the Plantations, the primacy of Dublin). Nucleated settlement provides various functions e.g. service-providing villages, market towns, , defensive town, resource-based settlements. Most large settlements have a combination of those functions so they are known as multi-functional settlements e.g. Limerick city has port, ecclesiastical (saints or apparitions) and market functions. The Dutch Polders is an example of a new settlement that was developed to prevent flooding and to make more land available for a growing population. Land was reclaimed from the sea in two reclamation projects – The Zuider Zee Project and the Delta Project. The function of a settlement may change over time, for example, the discovery of a mine changed Navan. The development of communication links between towns and cities helps their growth. For example, phone, internet, roads, railways, seaports and airports. Or more specifically, EU airports have caused an increase in trade, an increase in tourism and the development of new towns.