



Lesson 6: The Origins of My Community

In this lesson, students explore the range of factors which have influenced the origin and development of their own community.

Support material: Worksheet B7, Documentation on the community to be studied.



Spotlight

Geographical and historical influences



Key Concepts

Geographical features. Historical events.

Review of work

Discuss Worksheet B6 with the class.

- What were the principal factors which contributed to the growth and development of Maynooth?
- What factors do you think contributed to the development of your own community?

Teacher preparation

Teacher preparation for this lesson will be demanding. Choosing or defining the "community" to be studied is the first important step. It has consequences not only for this lesson, but also for the field trip in Lesson 7, for Lessons 8 and 9 and for the exercise "Negotiating Change" in Lesson 10. The study area must be small enough to manage, but large enough to offer enough scope for investigation. For a school located in or near a village, or in a small or medium sized town, the whole community might be a suitable study area. If the school is located in a large city, its local neighbourhood may prove to be rich in history and opportunity.

The teacher will need to research the study area thoroughly and locate the information, maps and other documents which the students will need to answer the questions in Worksheet B7.

Brainstorming

How does the class think their community began?

- What is the origin of the community's placename?
- List any geographical features which may have influenced settlement in this area.
- How far is it to the nearest market town/major centre/city?
- Can you think of any monuments or historical buildings in the area?
- What additional factors have contributed to the development of your community?
- List the variety of trades and occupations which you consider important to the development of your community.