

Geography

2C

Map Work

See Map Resource Sheet

Worksheet 2C: Accessing the Burren

To Do

Using the map of Ireland discuss the following:

- 1: Make a list of the forms of transport you could take for your journey to the Burren Centre
- 2: Using the website http://www.theaa.com/travelwatch/planner_main.jsp plan a route from your home to the Burren Centre in Kilfenora
- 3: Following the route to the Burren Centre, identify
 - (a) the counties or
 - (b) the towns through which you pass
- 4: Can you find two alternative routes for your journey? Which would be the quicker of the two?

To Do

Using the map of the Burren

1. Outline the area of the Burren (option – mark out with glue and follow on with blue string)
2. Identify three monuments in the Burren (option – use brown plasticene and mark with flag made from ice cream stick)
3. Locate three natural features of the Burren (as no.2, but with separate colour)

BURREN CENTRE WORKSHEET 2C

THE BURREN CENTRE LÁMHA SUAS PUPIL WORKSHEETS

Geography

2A Formation of Life in the Burren

2B Winterages & Hidden Burren Word Search

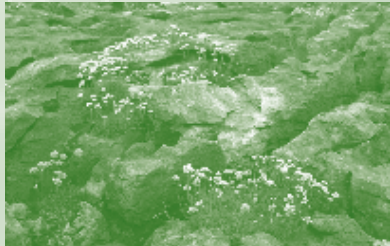
2C Map Work

Module 2

2A

Formation of Life in the Burren - Case Profile

The Burren name comes from the Irish word, Boireann, which means a place of stone. The 259 square kilometres of the Burren is one of the world's unique natural heritage regions because of its dramatic **limestone** karst landscape. It is located just off Galway Bay, on the western Atlantic coast of Ireland, and covers most of north Clare and the Gort lowlands. This is a region which was largely sculpted by glaciers which passed through here about 15,000 years ago. The splendid, distinctive limestone terraces and pavements of this region formed over thousands of years like steps of stairs as **glaciers** plucked layers of stone from the hillsides. These terraces featuring clints and grykes are made up of thick horizontal limestone layers or beds which were first laid down in a tropical sea floor many millions of years ago. Most of Ireland's rock structure is composed of limestone but for the most part lies below the surface. In the Burren the limestone rock is on the surface and very large areas of bare rock are visible. One of the amazing things about the limestone pavements of the Burren is the beautiful seedbed habitats in which grow a huge range



of plants and wildflowers known as **flora**. Here alpine and arctic plants grow side by side with Mediterranean species. Most of Ireland's 900 native plant species are found here. The many different plants and wildflowers also attract a wonderful diversity of wildlife, known as fauna. This rich **ecology**, also known as the **Burren Circle of Life**, is the result of a unique combination of location, weather and agricultural practices found in the Burren. The Burren is sometimes aptly referred to as the 'fertile rock'.

What lay beneath...

Some other unique features of the Burren are its **turloughs**, otherwise known as dry lakes and its many **caves**. This is because limestone is a very **permeable** rock which means that water can seep through it easily and create amazing features. In summer time turloughs are full of flora and animals graze here. In the winter, it fills with water and becomes a large lake with many different wild birds.

Aillwee Cave, over two million years old and featuring an underground river and waterfall, remains ever famous. Close by in the 'underworld' lay Poulmagollum, the principal cave system in Ireland with over seven and a quarter miles of passage ways. Pól an Ionainn at Doolin Cave, one of the world's largest **stalactites**, measures almost seven metres in length and is a wondrous sight.



Doolin Cave

2B

Winterages & Hidden Burren Word Search

Explore the Burren Centre and come to know some of the distinctive natural and human features of the Burren such as the unique practice of moving cattle to lowlands in summer and to highlands in winter. The Burren is the only region in Europe where this practice known as winterage happens. Humankind has been central to the formation of the Burren Circle of Life and farmers have been an important part of the eco-system here. It was the agricultural practices and clearance of the pine dominated woodlands with its understory of hazel that exposed so much bare limestone in the first place, the soil washing away down the fissures. It is the continued use of winterages over the centuries which sustain the Burren's unique, world renowned flora and archaeology and has renowned benefits for both animals and the environment.

WORDSEARCH

S	G	F	W	S	A	I	L	L	W	E	E	G	G	T
A	C	W	I	A	B	D	E	G	C	S	R	A	C	L
P	C	L	N	E	R	R	U	B	S	Y	W	F	N	S
Ó	L	P	T	E	T	P	S	G	K	C	A	A	E	S
L	I	M	E	S	T	O	N	E	F	K	I	R	R	G
A	N	E	R	P	F	L	S	A	L	T	Q	O	R	L
N	T	T	A	B	A	T	H	J	N	U	R	L	U	A
I	S	A	G	T	B	H	J	E	J	R	U	F	B	C
O	Z	N	E	U	D	H	G	K	V	L	Y	O	S	I
N	Y	I	S	V	E	G	H	K	V	O	I	U	P	E
A	T	L	O	W	N	R	U	Q	A	U	H	H	B	R
I	W	L	A	I	E	U	J	N	Y	G	V	K	F	E
N	U	O	R	E	J	Q	U	A	E	H	S	R	A	L
N	M	P	S	T	U	A	V	X	Y	T	U	M	W	V
A	S	X	L	P	F	E	T	P	S	B	W	F	S	A
E	N	O	T	S	A	C	D	P	S	S	E	P	E	S

In the Burren you don't have to look long to find amazing life and landscape all around you. How many of these words can you find in the wordsearch.

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1. SPRING GENTIAN | 2. WINTERAGES | 3. STONE |
| 4. PÓL AN IONAINN | 5. TURLOUGH | 6. BURREN |
| 7. LIMESTONE | 8. POLLINATE | 9. SEA |
| 10. AILLWEE | 11. GLACIER | 12. ELVA |
| 13. GRYKES | 14. CLINTS | 15. FLORA |
| 16. FAUNA | | |