

Transition Year Climate Change Resource

The content within these lectures allows for a unique and stimulating approach to the wider overarching study of climate change.

As part of the Transition Year programme the series provides an exciting opportunity to study the impacts of climate change on the historic environment with input from leading authorities giving a unique perspective on local and global environmental issues.

This series discusses key issues of conservation and sustainability which promotes both wider study and in depth analysis for transition year students. While these lectures can be studied in Transition Year, there are strong links to the Leaving Certificate Geography Curriculum, providing a solid fountain for learning and understanding around the impact of climate change for those taking geography into the senior cycle.

The Climate Crisis and Archaeology

Many archaeological monuments are being impacted upon by the changes in the environment they are in and the Climate Crisis.

This series of four online talks was led by the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology, to explore how archaeologists and conservation architects are tracking and responding to these threats. These talks discuss the problems for archaeological sites arising from severe weather, what actions are being taken in response to this, and suggest how technology and other approaches can be utilised to manage the situation.

This lecture series was organised by the Education and Outreach Department and are introduced by Dr Nessa O'Connor, Assistant Keeper and archaeologist in the Irish Antiquities Division of the National Museum of Ireland – Archaeology and Siobhán Pierce, Education and Outreach Officer.

Lecture 1:

Climate Change: what it means for our built and archaeological heritage

The first talk in this series provides an overview of the impacts climate change is having on our cultural heritage and the actions the State is taking to address these challenges. It also provides insight into some of the work carried out by the Irish Government and the Climate Change Advisory Group for Built & Archaeological Heritage. (46:30 minutes)

Jacqui Donnelly, Senior Architect, Built Heritage Policy, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and Pauline Gleeson, Senior Archaeologist in the National Monuments Service.

Lecture 2:

Can the past adapt to an uncertain future?

This lecture looks at global and local case studies and hidden opportunities in responding to and managing the effects of climate change on archaeological landscapes and monuments.

(51:56 minutes)

Dr Cathy Daly, Senior Lecturer in the School of History & Heritage at the University of Lincoln.

Lecture 3:

Impacts of Climate Change on Coastal Archaeological Sites in County Kerry

The third lecture in the series focuses on a case study of Co. Kerry and discusses how the State is addressing the impacts of climate change on three major archaeological sites in the region, including the UNESCO world heritage site of Skellig Michael. (56:18 minutes)

Fergus McCormick, Senior Architect in the Monuments Section of the Office of Public Works.

Lecture 4:

The CHERISH project; Understanding climate change impacts on our coastal cultural heritage

The final talk in this climate change series explores the contribution of the CHERISH Project and their work, surveying and recording cultural heritage in order to map cultural heritage sites in the coastal and marine zone, and to measure the rates of climate induced change and further archaeological research. (51:01 minutes)

Sandra Henry, the lead Research Archaeologist for the CHERISH project with The Discovery Programme.

Curriculum Links to Leaving Certificate Geography

Syllabus Aims and Objectives

Aim - To provide students, through their study of geography, with an interesting and enjoyable experience and encourage in them a lifelong love of their natural and cultural environment.

Objectives - From this syllabus, students should acquire knowledge and develop an understanding, from a local, national and international perspective of:

- Physical and environmental phenomena and processes.
- Social, cultural, and economic phenomena and processes.

Core Unit 1: Patterns and Processes in the Physical Environment.

1.7 - Human interaction - Statement: Human activities can impact on the operation of surface processes.

Coastal processes and the impact of recreational pressures, coastal defence work, conservation and management measures. Appropriate National and International settings.

Core Unit 2: Regional Geography

2.1 – The concept of a region – Statement: The concept of a region.

A region is an area of the earth's surface, which can be identified by selected criteria operating at a variety of scales. Single or multiple indices may be used to study these regions.

Students should study physical regions: climatic regions, in particular the cool temperate oceanic.

Elective unit 4: patterns and processes in economic activities

4.5 - Environmental impact - Statement: Economic activities have an environmental impact.

Sustainable economic development so as to control its environmental impact.

Students should examine past experiences, future prospects and the necessity for environmental impact studies.

Elective unit 5: patterns and processes in the human environment

5.4 - The dynamics of settlement - Statement: Settlements can be identified in relation to site, situation and function.

Students should study the locational characteristics for Pre-historic and historic settlements.

Optional Unit 9: The Atmosphere - Ocean Environment

9.5 - Statement: The surface of the earth can be divided into distinctive climate environments. The characteristics of climate can change over time and space.

Students should study one distinctive global climate e.g. equatorial, monsoon, mid-latitude west coast, Mediterranean or continental climates. Examples of Climate Change.