



## Worksheet B7: My Community — Its History and Geography

Do this with Lesson 6.

Put all completed work in your folder.

### Names of Partners

.....

.....

Examine your community maps and any other documents carefully. With your partner, collect the evidence which reveals the story of your community.

Name of your village/town

.....

What is the origin of its placename?

.....

.....

.....

### Physical Geography

1. What is the local climate in your area? Air temperature, rainfall, wind force, prevailing wind direction, sunshine? Is it exceptionally windy, wet or dry, sunny or cloudy? (Consult atlases or Met Éireann for information.)

.....

.....

.....

.....

2. Is there a natural source of water in the immediate area? State its name and location.

.....

.....

.....

3. List the ways in which water may have been used by the early settlers in the area.

.....

.....



4. List the ways in which water is used by your community today.

.....  
.....  
.....

5. Is there a river crossing? Find out when it was built. State its location. Give reasons why it may have had an impact on settlement in your area.

.....  
.....  
.....

6. Is your town on a major north/south/east/west access route — a national gateway to other parts of the country? Name this route and describe it.

.....  
.....  
.....

7. Are there any other natural physical features which might explain why your community took the shape it has today — altitude, hills, forests, ground conditions?

.....  
.....  
.....

8. If possible, identify the point of origin of your community on a map. Write a brief description of it.

.....  
.....  
.....

**Human Geography**

9. Is there any evidence of pre-Christian settlement in the area? Give the location. Find out whether it is Neolithic (Stone Age — 3000-2000 BC), Bronze Age (2000-500 BC) or Iron Age (500 BC-432 AD).

.....  
.....  
.....



10. Is there a monastic site in the area? If so, name it. Is it early Christian (432-600 AD), High Christian (600-800 AD) or medieval (800-1100 AD)?

.....  
.....  
.....

11. How would a monastic settlement influence the development of a community? (Consider: trades, crafts, pilgrims.)

.....  
.....  
.....

12. Are there any remains of fortified keeps, castles, town walls or gates in the vicinity? If so, find out who built them and when. What influence(s) do you think they had on the settlement of the area?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

13. Note and describe any evidence of Viking settlement in your area.

.....  
.....  
.....

14. Is there any evidence of Anglo-Norman influence on the development of your community? If so, say what this is and give its dates.

.....  
.....  
.....

15. Do you know whether your community has a charter? Is there a market square? Elaborate.

.....  
.....  
.....



## NEIGHBOURHOOD, VILLAGE, TOWN, CITY

16. Are there any large houses and demesnes in your area? Give their dates. What family owned them? How could a landlord influence the development of a settlement in this case?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

17. Have any important historical events — battles, famines — had an impact on the development of your community?

.....  
.....  
.....

18. Are there any important church buildings in the area? Give their names and their dates of construction.

.....  
.....  
.....

19. Are there any 18th or 19th century industrial buildings — mills, warehouses, factories? Name them. Why do you think these were built there? What effects might they have had?

.....  
.....  
.....

20. Is your town a resort or a railway town? Nineteenth-century towns often developed on these lines. Why might this have been a factor in the development of your settlement?

.....  
.....  
.....

21. Is there a military barracks in the locality? How did this influence the development of your settlement?

.....  
.....  
.....



22. Was your town established near a major urban centre such as Dublin or Cork? Some new towns established in the 20th century are called satellite towns. Why is this a good name for such towns? Is your town a satellite town? How do you think it came about?

.....

.....

.....

23. List some local street names. Find out about the origins of any which interest you.

.....

.....

.....

24. Where is the “centre” of your community today? Is it the same place as the point of origin you identified in Question 8? Explain why it is the focal point.

.....

.....

.....

25. What has happened to the population of your community during the 20th century? Did it rise, fall or fluctuate? Try to explain why this happened.

.....

.....

.....

### Homework

1. Find some historical documentation about the history of your community. Consult your school or local library. List and describe what you have found.

*or*

2. Find out if there are any folk tales or legends associated with places or people from the past. Record them.

*or*

3. Find out more about *one* of the kinds of buildings you have discovered in your community. Draw an example of one of the following.

- Pre-Christian settlement
- Monastic site
- Fortified castle or keep
- Viking house
- Estate house
- Library or museum
- Bank



## NEIGHBOURHOOD, VILLAGE, TOWN, CITY

---

- Courthouse
- Mill
- Railway station
- Another building type of your choice

Record dates and other background information about the site/building you have chosen.



### Scrapbook

Devote a page/section to **Historic Buildings**. Choose a particular building type — castle, monastery, church, courthouse, town hall etc. Collect pictures or make your own drawings. Label each building.

### Vocabulary File

Add new words and definitions to your file.