

SETTLEMENT IN IRELAND

ORDER OF DEVELOPMENT OF SETTLEMENT IN IRELAND

Neolithic	8000BC
Iron Age/Celtic/Pre-Christian	500BC-500AD
Early Christian	500AD-800AD
Late Christian	800AD-1200AD (*)
Medieval	1200AD-1560'sAD
Early Modern/Plantation	1560'sAD-1703AD
Georgian	1703AD-1837AD
Victorian	1837AD-1901AD
Edwardian	1901AD-1920/30AD
Modern	1930'sAD-1960'sAD
Contemporary	1960/70AD –Present

PRE-CHRISTIAN SETTLEMENT IN IRELAND

- First settlers to Ireland arrived about 8000BC
- Travelled across land bridges from Britain
- Had FOUR BASIC NEEDS
 - Water
 - Communications
 - Food
 - Defence
- They chose locations to live based on these

FACTORS AFFECTING THE LOCATION OF PRE-CHRISTIAN SETTLEMENT IN IRELAND

WATER

- Earliest Settlement was on coasts
- Inland Rivers and Lakes
- Provided Freshwater for cooking, cleaning and drinking Fish

COMMUNICATIONS

- Ireland was covered in forest
- Rivers allowed
 - Access to inland locations and lakes
 - An escape route during danger

FOOD

- First settlers were HUNTERS AND GATHERERS
- Riverside locations were ideal - food, water
- Neolithic settlers were farmers
 - Used wooden ploughs
 - Needed land that was
 - Well drained, fertile, had light soils
 - Chose hill top locations

DEFENCE

- Hill top locations allowed a view of the surrounding landscape
- Early house sites were enclosed
- Neolithic – stone wall enclosures
- Iron Age/Early Christian
 - Cashels – stone walls
 - Crannogs – surrounded by lake
 - Rathes – surrounded by ditch and palisade

Factors affecting the Location of NUCLEATED Settlement in Ireland

Why are nucleated settlement is located in certain places in Ireland?

Two types of influences on location of Irish Settlement

- **Social Factors**
 - Historical nucleated settlement in Ireland
 - The Primacy of Dublin

- **Physical Geography Factors**
 - Land Quality
 - Drainage
 - Altitude

SOCIAL FACTORS

Historical Settlement – Viking Towns – Linear distribution pattern
(note: all towns are nucleated settlements)

- The first towns in Ireland were founded (built) by Vikings
- Vikings arrived in Ireland by ship
- They traded all over Europe
- They founded the first Irish Towns on coasts
- This made trade easier
- Examples include Dublin,

Wexford and Waterford

- These towns had permanent populations.
- They were enclosed by walls separating them from the countryside
- They were centres of trade and commerce.
- Manufacturing was practiced also and they had their own parliaments.

The Primacy of Dublin

Dublin is the largest City in Ireland. It is also a PRIMATE CITY

- A Primate city is one which has a population more than twice the size of the next largest city.

Dublin has a population of over 900,000 people while Cork, the next largest city, has less than 200,000 people.

Dublin has become so populated because

- It was the centre of English Administration in Ireland
- History of in-migration after the Famine continued to the present day
- Continued as the Capital City after independence in 1921
- Government Departments and Civil Service are concentrated here
- Is a focus point of all the major transport routes in Ireland e.g. Dublin Airport is the largest in Ireland
- Attracts most new businesses investing in Ireland
- Has a huge variety of services –entertainment, schools, hospitals, Colleges and Universities
- These characteristics encourage people, especially young people to move to Dublin

Effects of Dublin's Primacy

Many satellite towns* near and around Dublin have grown larger as a result of Dublin's importance as a centre of Government, services and industry e.g. Leixlip, Lucan, Clondalkin, Tallaght and Swords. These have grown so large that they are now merging with Dublin.

* A satellite town is a town that exists outside but near to a large city.

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY FACTORS

1. Land Quality

Nucleated settlement is found in areas with fertile soils

Anglo-Norman Settlement

- Anglo-Normans arrived in Ireland in 1169
- Grew crops – wheat, barley, oats
 - Needed fertile land
 - Built Motte and Bailey settlements in fertile areas
 - **Dispersed throughout Leinster**
 - Castles replaced Motte and Bailey structures
 - Became the focus point for the development of Anglo-Norman towns in Leinster
 - Provided defence and a protected market place
 - e.g Carlow, Kilkenny

2. Altitude

Irish settlement occurs most commonly in lowland areas below the 300m contour

- **Avoids highland**
 - Cold, wet, exposed to strong winds
 - Absence of route-ways therefore inaccessible
 - Difficult to farm
 - Slopes are difficult to build on
- **Attracted to lowlands**
 - Warmer, drier, sheltered
 - Gentle or no slopes
 - Easier to farm and build on
 - More accessible
 - Variety of routeways
 - Railways and canals must follow gentle gradients

3. Drainage

The location of settlement is also affected by drainage patterns.
Settlement is found at

- **Riverside locations**
 - Supply of clean water for cooking, cleaning, drinking
 - Transport
 - Waterford, Wexford, Dublin, Drogheda
- **Dry Point Sites**
 - Settlement located on lowlying hills (knolls)
 - To escape periodic flooding
 - Found in areas where drainage is poor e.g. Bog of Allen
- **Lowest Bridging Points**
 - The lowest point on a river where a bridge can be built (near the mouth of a river but before the estuary)
 - Bridge becomes a focus point of routeways
 - Bridge acts as a crossing point attracting road transport
 - Attracts settlement
 - Encourages trade and commerce
 - All coastal towns – Dublin, Cork, Galway etc.