



Exciting Transition Year Geography Courses

At the Sustainable Forestry Education Centre, we have designed two exciting geography courses for Transition Year Geography classes. Each of these courses builds on information gained at Junior Certificate level and introduces geographical skills that will be required at Leaving Certificate level while working with very practical aspects of geography.

Land Use and Flooding

This half day course asks students to consider the implications of all the development Ireland has seen over recent years. What are the effects of changing land use? Using our land use and rainfall simulators, the students can see first hand how run-off in a drainage basin is affected by the land use within the drainage basin. Students can control rainfall and record lag time and run-off to determine which land use allows water into the river system in the shortest time. This course is set up as an investigation, with students deciding on method and equipment prior to carrying out the field work. The students also develop hypotheses before carrying out the field work. A short classroom session after the fieldwork, allows the students to analyse their results and relate the results to their hypotheses. The problems caused by flooding are also discussed.



Map and Compass Work

During this half day course, students will use ordnance survey maps and aerial photographs to relate to their surroundings and will learn to use a compass in order to describe locations of landmarks and to give directions to them. Detailed maps of Manch Estate will also be used to allow students to practice map-reading and compass use on a woodland trail. The course culminates with compass orienteering, with students relying on the skills they have acquired during the course to find the points on our new orienteering course.

