#

# Virtual Scavenger Hunt Questionnaire for the Burren

# How old is Poulnabrone and what is it?

# What is a Turlough and name one found in the Irelands largest depression?

# When was Ailwee cave first discovered, what did they find inside in 1976 that is more that 10,000 years old?

# Where is O’Brien’s tower and why was it built?

# Name three wild flowers found in unique circumstances in the Burren

# Name the highest hill in the Burren; its height and what type of rock is on top?

# What type of rock is the Burren made from and how old is this rock?

# What would you find at 53°09.253' North 009°15.839' West?

# Cahercommaun Fort, what type of Fort was it and how old is it?

# What is a slow worm and where did they come from?

Resources:

<http://www.burrengeopark.ie/learn-engage/geology-resources/geopark-maps/>

<https://www.burrengeopark.ie/learn-engage/geology-of-the-burren/>

<https://www.burrengeopark.ie/learn-engage/geology-of-the-burren/flora-and-fauna/>

# Answers ……………..

1. **Poulnabrone dolmen** (**Poll na Brón** in [Irish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_language)) is an unusually large [dolmen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dolmen) or **portal tomb** located in [the Burren](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Burren). It dates to the [Neolithic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neolithic) period, probably between 4200 BC and 2900 BC. It the best known and most widely photographed of the approximately 172 dolmens in Ireland.

2. A **Turlough** is a “disappearing” lake found in flat bottomed valley areas of limestone and depressions or Polje. **Carron Turlough** is the largest enclosed depression in Ireland with a large Turlough as a central feature.

3. **Ailwee Cave** was first discovered in **1944** by a local herdsman who only told cavers nearly 30 years later in 1973. In 1976 in preparation for conversion into a show cave, over 450 brown bear bones were discovered. Of significance a **skull of a brown bear** dating back to over 10,400 years ago, these bears became extinct around 1000 BC

4. **O'Brien's Tower** marks the highest point of the **Cliffs of Moher**, a very popular tourist destination in County Clare. The tower was built in 1835 by the landlord of the locality – Cornelius O’Brien – a descendant of the first High King of Ireland, Brian Boru and a member of the O’Brien clan, whose influence spread throughout county Clare and beyond. O’Brien built the tower as an **observation platform for the visitors** who were even flocking to the Cliffs of Moher back then. Today the cliffs get over 1 million visitors a year.

5. **Wild flowers of the Burren**, these varieties are not found anywhere else in Ireland or the British Isles but you would come across them within the Arctic Circle, the Alps or the Mediterranean. They include gentians, mountain avens (growing at sea level instead of high altitudes), saxifrages, orchids, cranesbills, seedums and rock roses, to name a few.

6. The **highest** point in the Burren is the **sandstone -capped hill of Slieve Elva at 345 m** above sea level.

7. Approximately 350 million years old. **The Burren** is underlain by limestones of the Lower Carboniferous period, 359-299 million years ago. The **Carboniferous limestone** formed as sediments in a tropical sea which covered most of Ireland approximately 350 million years ago.

8. **Black Head Lighthouse**, built in 1935.

9. A **9th century** **Stone Ring Fort** built with three protective walls on the edge of a cliff plateau near Carran in the parish of Kilnaboy.

10. **Slow Worm**: This non-native species was illegally introduced into the Burren region in the 1970’s **from the UK** where it has been granted protected status due to its declining population. Despite their name and appearance, slow worms are neither worms nor snakes, but are in fact **legless lizards**. They have smooth, golden-grey skin. Males are paler and sometimes have blue spots, while females are larger with dark sides and a dark stripe down the back. Adult slow worms grow to be about 50 cm long. These reptiles are mostly active during the twilight and occasionally bask in the sun, but can be more often found hiding beneath rocks and logs.

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<https://www.burrengeopark.ie/learn-engage/geology-of-the-burren/flora-and-fauna/>

<http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/places/the_burren/burren_karst.htm>

<http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/places/the_burren/burren_geology.htm>