

Geographical Links: A Geographer and Some Ambling Footsteps

Session 1

Appalachian Trail in Ireland – we'll look at where it meets the Giant's Causeway, a World Heritage site, and explain how this feature was created using both the fabled version and a geological explanation. We'll also "visit" Fingal's Cave which inspired Mendelssohn to write his "Hebrides Overture". Some simple plate tectonics will be needed to explain why the Appalachian trail is being extended to parts of Europe and this will also help as we visit Iceland to walk around some features there, from geysers to bananas!

Session 2

Ambling round the USA - we'll arrive at the Water Gap in NJ to take just a couple of steps on the Appalachian trail there. However, we'll move quickly up the Hudson Valley looking at some of its geography, based, in part, on a landscape painting by George Harvey (1799-1880). Our other ambles will stay in mainland USA and *could be influenced by requests from the group*. Left to my own devices I might choose the Rainbow Arch in Utah, a meander on the Mississippi, Mantoloking in NJ and a sink hole in Florida.

The following 5 sessions have yet to be planned in detail but are likely to include the following: **housing** types from around the world; a search for the **curious** including those small features one may see only when walking; **views from the air** when our feet need a rest; the **role of water** in geography; maybe the **impact of volcanic activity**. The possibilities are endless!

The aim is to amble all around the world, stopping at points of interest for a quick glance or a detailed explanation. During each session, I shall tell the group what we'll be doing in the next session and ask for (completely optional!) input and requests. A geographer is someone who tries to understand the impact of man on the physical environment and the impact of the environment on human activity.

Leader: Helen Goddard is a former geography teacher in the U.K.

Wednesdays: 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., 7 weeks: September 27 through November 8.

Location: PSRC