



Ted Alejandre, County Superintendent

San Bernardino County

Superintendent of Schools

*Transforming lives through education*

**Monday, May 4**

2:00pm

**Ireland's Wild Coast, Part 1** – 4<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> grade

A personal journey along one of the most spectacular coastlines in the world featuring the wildlife and wild places that make it so special. Emmy award winning wildlife cameraman Colin Stafford-Johnson takes viewers on an authored odyssey along Ireland's rugged Atlantic coast - the place he chooses to make his home after 30 years spent shooting some of the world's most celebrated wildlife films. The series will follow Colin from the southwest corner of the island to finish on the tip of Northern Ireland. Along the way, he gives intimate personal insights into the wild animals and wild places he discovers. We begin on Skellig Rocks - stormbound ocean pinnacles off the southwestern corner where early Christian monks built a monastery on the summit almost 1500 years ago. His next stop is the deserted Great Blasket Island, home to a wildlife spectacle more familiar from Antarctica - vast numbers of Seals coming ashore in winter to fight, mate and moult before he heads inland in search of the island's last surviving herd of Red Deer from prehistoric times. Back on the coast he goes on the trail of Humpback Whales which are making their mark in Irish waters returning year after year in increasing numbers before heading north along the coast to meet a lonely dolphin who has set up residence off Ireland's striking Burren region. Colin ends in Clew Bay, an iconic inlet half way up Ireland's west coast and the place Colin chose to make his home after decades traveling the world.

**After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning**

**Question Box 1**

- Describe the physical attributes of Skellig Rocks and the monastery built upon the summit. Use sensory details to describe what you might see, hear, smell, feel and taste if you were there in person.
- Why did Stafford-Johnson choose to stop at Great Blasket Island? Was it truly deserted? What did he witness while there?
- What is Stafford-Johnson's point of view in this episode? Is it positive or negative? What details from the episode support that?
- Is Stafford-Johnson biased in his opinion of the Irish coast? Why or why not?

**Question Box 2**

- What about the show stood out to you?
- What did you find most interesting and why?
- How much did you know about the Ireland before watching this show? Did this give you

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a new perspective you hadn't considered?

- If someone else were looking at this program, what might they learn?
- How did you feel as you watched Stafford-Johnson visit the places on the Irish coast?
- Did you find the places he visited exciting? Why or why not?
- Would you like to visit another country? If so, which one and why?

### **Box 3 (Tasks)**

- Research and list 5 facts about the Irish Red Deer.
- Make a claim about the increasing Humpback Whale population and list three pieces of evidence to support the claim.
- Describe the sea animals that Stafford-Johnson highlighted in this episode. Compare and contrast two of the species using details from the episode.
- Draw a map of the Irish Atlantic coast. Include the places Stafford-Johnson visited and identify which animals were seen there.
- How many films did Colin Stafford-Johnson create in his career? What is the ratio of movies to years for Stafford-Johnson?
- What is the area of the monastery built by the monks 1500 years ago? Compare that to a current building as a reference.
- How many seals come to shore in the winter? What is the area of the space that is occupied by the seals? What would be the average space per seal?

### **Box 4 (Enrichment)**

- Do a google search of Colin Stafford-Johnson. What other wildlife adventures did he document and why? For which film did Colin receive an Emmy Award?
- Make a travel brochure about Ireland's "Wild Coast" that would interest tourists to visit.
- Research the Great Blasket Island and explain with evidence why seals flock to the island to mate.

### **Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)**

- Explain with evidence what sort of skills a wildlife photographer must demonstrate to be successful at their job.
- Describe ways in which Ireland's government protects its wildlife.
- Did you know that some animals build their own living structures just like humans?
- Click on the website below to see some of those structures.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structures\\_built\\_by\\_animals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structures_built_by_animals)
- Then, think of human construction workers. What similarities do you find between human construction workers and animals who build? What are the differences? (hints: materials, plans, durability, purpose, etc.). If you worked in construction, what kinds of things would you enjoy building?