



Let's Talk



Bogs

Teacher Guide

This activity aims to provide teachers with a resource which will help them to raise some of the environmental science issues relating to the preservation of peat bogs with their pupils. It is written for pupils at *CfE* second level but it could be modified to be used with younger or older pupils.

This activity could be used when pupils are studying plants and the environment and could be combined with a more general resource - Let's Talk Plants which aims to encourage pupils to discuss some of the issues and conflicts associated with preserving forests, providing habitats for wild animals within farmland and the importance of plants in the oceans.

- <http://www.sserc.org.uk/index.php/let-s-talk-2/1315-let-s-talk-plants-matter>

The lesson could begin with a general discussion about the ways in which plants are important, in general, and why peat bogs, in particular, are such important habitats.

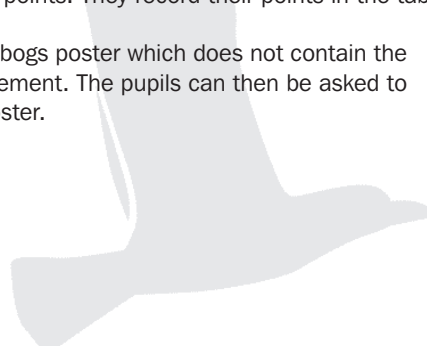
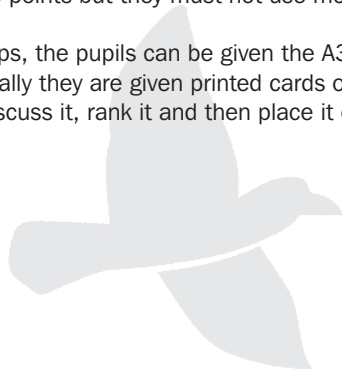
The pupil sheet provides an overview of peat bogs and the following links provide more detailed information:

- <http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk/learningabout/ourchallenges/climatechange/peatlands>
- <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/peatlands>
- <http://www.snh.org.uk/pdfs/publications/livinglandscapes/boglands.pdf>
- <http://www.history.com/news/uncovering-the-mysteries-of-the-bog-bodies>

Each pupil could then be asked to write a word or phrase about peat bogs in each petal of a flower - they could then be asked to write a poem about peat bogs using these words and phrases.

Now in groups the pupils are given one of the A3 Let's Talk bogs posters. If they are given the posters containing the statements then they are asked to rate the importance of the statements. There are 10 statements and the pupils have to give each statement an 'importance mark' out of 5 but they only have 35 points to give out. They need not use all their 35 points but they must not use more than 35 points. They record their points in the table.

Alternatively, still in groups, the pupils can be given the A3 Let's Talk bogs poster which does not contain the statements and additionally they are given printed cards of each statement. The pupils can then be asked to read each statement, discuss it, rank it and then place it onto the poster.



Curriculum Links

SCOTLAND - Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningteachingandassessment/curriculumareas/sciences/index.asp>

This activity supports the following CfE outcomes:

- I can explore examples of food chains and show an appreciation of how animals and plants depend on each other for food [SCN 1-02a].
- I have collaborated on investigations into the process of photosynthesis and I can demonstrate my understanding of why plants are vital to sustaining life on Earth [SCN 3-02a].

Additionally the activity develops the skills required to fulfil the requirement from the

Science Principles and Practice:

- making informed personal decisions and choices;
- expressing opinions and showing respect for others' views;
- developing informed social, moral and ethical views of scientific economic and environmental issues;
- discussing and debating scientific ideas and issues.

Let's Talk Bogs statements

A) Peat bogs store carbon and help to stabilise our climate.
B) Peat bogs store water and help to reduce flooding.
C) Peat bogs are full of unusual wild plants and birds and insects find places to live there.
D) In some places peat bogs are not looked after well and they can be lost forever.
E) Peat bogs can be a source of fuel to heat our homes.
F) Peat from the bogs can be used to make electricity in power-stations.
G) Peat can be used in your garden in plant pots and hanging baskets to help the plants to grow well.
H) Peat bogs take thousands of years to form and can show our ancient history.
I) The UK has 15% of the world's peat bogs.
J) In peat bogs trees do not grow well so it is important to manage woodlands and peat bogs together.



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Peat from the bogs can be used to make electricity in power-stations.

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G

Peat can be used in your garden in plant pots and hanging baskets to help the plants to grow well.

Bogs

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Peat bogs take thousands of years to form and can show our ancient history.

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The UK has 15% of the world's peat bogs.

Bogs

J

In peat bogs trees do not grow well so it is important to manage woodlands and peat bogs together.