



# Why are peatlands important?

**Time needed for activity** 15 - 30 minutes

**Location** Indoors or outdoors

## Context

This activity shares the importance of sustainably managing our natural resources, focusing on peatlands and the multiple benefits they provide.

Natural Resources Wales' purpose is to pursue sustainable management of natural resources in all of its work. This means looking after air, land, water, wildlife, plants and soil to improve Wales' well-being, and provide a better future for everyone.

## Curriculum for Wales

### Languages, Literacy and Communication

- **What matters**  
Understanding languages is key to understanding the world around us.
- **What matters**  
Expressing ourselves through languages is key to communication.

### Science and Technology

- **What matters**  
Being curious and searching for answers is essential to understanding and predicting phenomena.
- **What matters**  
The world around us is full of living things which depend on each other for survival.

### Humanities

- **What matters**  
Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions.

## Objectives

**Learners will be able to:**

- Explain some of the reasons why peatlands are important.
- Describe which of those reasons is the most important to them.
- Understand that peatlands provide multiple benefits for people and the environment.

## Suggested equipment and resources

- [Resource cards - Why are peatlands important?](#)



## Suggestions to complete this activity

The activity can be adapted and carried out in different ways (see bullet points). It can also be used to introduce or consolidate learning on the topic of peatlands, climate change and sustainability.

- Ask the group why peatlands are important and discuss their ideas. Can they create their own resource cards?
- Independently or in small groups, ask your learners to order the resource cards according to which they believe are the most important to the least important benefits that peatlands provide.
- With larger groups, you could give each learner a card. Learners can arrange themselves so that they stand in order of the most important to the least important benefit. If you have multiple groups, they can then compare and discuss the similarities and differences between the group decisions.
- Learners could work in pairs or small groups to sort the resource cards using diamond ranking.

There are no right or wrong answers. The aim of the activity is to encourage discussion and for the students to learn that peatlands can provide multiple benefits for both people and the environment.

## Suggested key questions

- What do you think the most important benefit that peatlands provide is?
- What can you do on a personal level to help conserve peatlands?

## Suggestions for adapting for different needs/abilities

- Remove some of the cards from the set.
- Complete the activity as a whole group.
- Investigate other benefits that peatlands provide and add to the card set.

## Suggestions for follow up activity/extension

- Create charts and graphs to illustrate which reason was the most popular with learners e.g. create a human bar chart: lay the cards on the ground and ask the learners to stand in front of their chosen card in straight lines to make the 'bars'.
- Use natural art to illustrate a way in which peatlands are important.

## Suggested other resources

- [Activity plan - Peatlands quiz](#)
- [Activity plan - How does peat form?](#)

## Learning in, learning about, and learning for the natural environment.

### Looking for more learning resources, information and data?

Visit <https://naturalresources.wales/learning>

Alternative format; large print or another language, please contact:

[enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

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