



# Why are bogs important?

**Key Stage/Age group** KS2/3

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

**Location** Indoors or outdoors

## Context

This activity plan highlights the importance of sustainably managing our natural resources, focusing on bogs and wetlands 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 links

	<b>ESDGC - Natural environment</b>	<b>Geography</b>	<b>PSE</b>	
<b>KS2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People depend on the environment for energy, food and other materials and resources</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Observe and ask questions about a place, environment or geographical issue</li><li>• Living in my world: caring for places and environments and the importance of being a global citizen</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appreciate the natural world as a source of inspiration</li></ul>	<b>Please note this activity will also help you to deliver aspects of the Literacy and Numeracy Framework and Digital Competencies Framework</b>
<b>KS3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understand how human activity changes local and global environments</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop opinions and understand that people have different values, attitudes and points of view on geographical issues</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use some prior knowledge to explain links between cause and effect</li><li>• Understand topical local and global issues</li></ul>	

This activity will help you deliver against current curriculum and will enable learners to progress in the way described in the four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales.



## Objectives

**By the end of this activity learners will be able to:**

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

## Equipment and resources

- Resource cards - Why are bogs important?

## What to do

The activity can be adapted and carried out in different ways (see 1 to 3). It can also be used to introduce or consolidate learning on the topic of bogs, climate change and sustainability.

Ask the group why bogs are important and discuss their ideas.

- 1 Independently or in small groups, hand out a set of the resource cards and ask learners to order the cards from the ones they believe are the most important to the least important benefits that bogs provide. Discuss outcomes.
- 2 With larger groups, give each learner a card. In groups, ask learners to arrange themselves so that they stand in order of the most important to the least important benefits that bogs provide. Compare and discuss the similarities and differences between the groups.
- 3 Learners can work in pairs or small groups to sort the nine resource cards using diamond ranking. Ask each group to arrange the cards into a diamond formation with the most important card at the top, two cards in 2nd row, three cards in 3rd row (medium importance), two cards in 4th row and their least important card at the bottom. They need to get consensus as a group and can move the cards around until they reach an order which they all agree on.

Explain that there are no right or wrong answers. The purpose of the activity is to encourage discussion and for the students to learn that bogs can provide multiple benefits for people and the environment.

## Key questions

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

## Adapting for different needs/abilities

### Less able

- Remove some of the cards from the set and concentrate on options 1 and 2.

### More able

- Investigate if there are other benefits that bogs provide and add to the card set.
- Complete the activity including the extra card(s).



## 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 children to stand in front of their chosen card in straight lines to make the ‘bars’.
- Use natural art to illustrate a way in which bogs are important.

### Try our other bog activities:

- Activity plan – To bog or not to bog? That is the question
- Activity plan – Peat carbon calculator

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

Please contact: [education@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:education@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) or go to <https://naturalresources.wales/learning>

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