



Lesson 2: Scottish bugs under threat

Teaching Instructions

Learning Outcomes

- Communicate; take part in conversation, within real and imaginary situations, share experiences and feelings, ideas and information.
- Improve their understanding of conservation and biodiversity and compare their own lives in meaningful context.
- Generate appropriate questions for further investigation.
- Explore software and find, access and use information from electronic sources to support learning.
- Explore ways to represent ideas and information as a newspaper article.

Required Resources

Photocopies of the 3 x species profiles – Aspen hoverfly, Bog bush cricket and Narrow-headed ant.

A3 paper for the newspaper articles

Newspapers

Access to computers and the internet for additional research

Preparation

Arrange the desks for group work (2-4 people per group)

Notes

Lesson duration: We would recommend spending 90 -120 minutes. You may want to split the activities into a series of lessons.



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Teaching Plan

Activity 1 - Discussion

Start the lesson with a discussion about what the children understand about threatened and extinct species, conservation and biodiversity.

- Why are species are under threat?
- Why should we bother to save endangered species? Arguments for and against; eg. Biodiversity, costs involved.

Activity 2 - Newspaper Articles

In the species profiles we have given you information about three species of insects that are particularly under threat in Scotland.

Ask the children to read the species profiles. Explain that the children will be producing a newspaper article about one of the species, focusing on conservation. Using actual newspapers, discuss the layout of a newspaper.

Maybe they were present at a demonstration against the landfill proposal at Aucheninnes Moss. What were the feelings of the protestors? What about the landowner's point of view? How do people feel now it looks like the site may be safe? (see Bog - bush cricket species profile). Or maybe they are writing an article about the Aspen hoverfly and have spoken to a landowner - how does he feel about the scientists' suggestions on how he manages his wood. Is he happy? (see Aspen hoverfly species profile). Headings, subheadings, pictures, columns can all be used. Quotes from imaginary people could also be included.

Activity 3 - Presenting the newspaper articles

Ask the children to present their newspaper article to the class. Prepare them for answering questions about their work and for their opinions on the subject matter.