

Cuthbert's Moor
An area of upland peatland in the Durham Dales


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What do you already know about peatland?

Where are they?
What do they look, sound or feel like?
You might not know anything!
What might you find there?
Do they do anything important?

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What's special about peatlands?



IUCN
Peatland Programme

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What is peatland?



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Peatland as an ecosystem

Living Things
Mosses, Rabbits, Birds, Plants, Fungi

Non-living Things
Sunlight, Rain, Soil, Water

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Why do we classify animals?

There are millions of different animal species on earth and they are all related to each other in some way.

Classification groups different species together that have similar features.

This makes it easier to study animals by knowing which species are closely related to each other.

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Activity - Classifying Species

TASK In your group, look at the Species Cards and see if you can think of a way to sort them into groups.

REMEMBER There is not a right or wrong answer for this task you just need a reason for your groups.

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Classifying animals



Animals are divided into two main groups. Do you know what they are?
These two groups are then subdivided. Do you know any of the names of these groups?

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Classifying animals

Vertebrates - less than 10%
Invertebrates - over 90%

Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Amphibians, Fish, Insects, Spiders, Crustaceans

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Let's Take a Closer Look at the Animals We Might Find



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Let's Take a Closer Look at the Animals We Might Find


Mammals, Reptiles, Amphibians, Invertebrates, Birds

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Time to get scientific

Why is it important to know what species are on the moor?
Where do we start looking?

Quadrats - these are one way to focus on a small area to find what is there.



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You will need:

A view of Cuthbert's Moor
Species Cards
Recording Sheets
Whiteboard Pen
Quadrat

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Activity - Using Quadrats

TASK Animal Recording Sheet - record the number of each animal species that you find in your quadrat. It will be easier if you circle them when you spot any.


Plant Recording Sheet - record how many squares each plant species is growing in. It will be easier to count one species at a time.

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Recording your results

You can show your results on a Bar Graph to make it easier for people to understand.

In this example there were 7 quadrat squares that contained Sphagnum Moss.



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