

LITERACY – Homecoming (peatland restoration & biodiversity)	P5-7
Pupils read and answer questions about animals restoring a peatland. There is a younger and older reading level for the story but the questions remain the same and follow Bloom’s Taxonomy.	
LIT 2-12a, LIT 2-15a, LIT 2-16a, ENG 2-12a, ENG 2-19a (LIT 2-23a, LIT 2-26a, LIT 2-28a for ‘I can create’ questions).	No other CfE links
Learning Intentions & success criteria We are learning to identify key information and themes within a fictional text I can use a dictionary to check the meaning of words that I have read. I can identify main ideas from a text and summarise these. I can make inferences, such as inferring character’s feelings and thoughts and justifying these with evidence. I can evaluate a character’s actions using evidence to support my view. I can create a new part of the story that is relevant and interesting.	
Key words Hen Harrier Dragonfly Adder Sphagnum	Other – SDGs, UNCRC, Digital Skills

TEACHER NOTES

- Peatlands are a type of wetland
- Peat is a soil that is very carbon rich, because a healthy peatland is waterlogged (has a high water table) and so dead plants don’t fully decompose.
- Because of this, more organic matter is made than breaks down, so the peat grows at a rate of 1cm every 10 years! In some areas of Dumfries and Galloway, our peatland is 8 or 9cm deep, meaning it has been forming for 8000 or 9000 years (since the last ice age).

Peatland Restoration

- 80% of peatlands in the UK are degraded (unhealthy) in some way, due to draining for forestry, agriculture, urban development, or due to overgrazing – and other land uses.
- It is important to restore our peatlands to a healthy state for many reasons including their unique biodiversity, downstream water quality, carbon storage, and more.
- Restoring a peatland is a complex process! Each peatland will need different methods and unique considerations, such as if they will be used for grazing in the future, or if they’re near water bodies.
- Restoration methods usually start with keeping the water on a peatland. We will block manmade drains with dams to keep water from flowing away, and may make the sides less steep. Usually, machines are used to do this work.
- Eventually we hope to make the peatland waterlogged again so that it starts creating new peat – and therefore storing carbon and helping us tackle climate change.
- Unique peatland species can thrive when a peatland is restored. Because these species are so specialised, they often cannot survive in other habitats.