


TOPIC Peatland Habitat Models EXPRESSIVE ARTS	P5 -P7
DESC & how to deliver The pupils will use their knowledge of peatlands to create a habitat model of a typical healthy peatland. They will learn what a healthy peatland looks like and the typical species that are found there through the help of a video, photos and fact files. In groups they will use craft materials to create their peatland habitat models. The pupils will present their habitat models to the class describing aspects of their habitat.	
LIT 2-14a	CfE links EXA 2-02a EXA 2-03a
Learning Intention: We are learning to create a model of a habitat Success Criteria I can work with my group to share work fairly I can use materials to create one of a plant, animal, or landscape that you find in a healthy peatland I can help my group explain our model to others I can listen to others explain their model I can include 2 features of a healthy peatland in my model	
Key words Peatlands Wetland Habitat Species	Other – SDGs, UNCRC, Digital Skills 

TEACHER NOTES

Peatlands

- Peatlands are a type of wetland
- Peat is a soil that is very carbon rich, because a healthy peatland is waterlogged (have a high water table), and so dead plants don't fully decompose like they would in your compost.
- 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 9m deep, meaning it has been forming for 8000 or 9000 years (since the last ice age).

Healthy peatland

- There is a 2 min video of a peatland “Peatland_Summary”, and a factsheet on how peatland is formed and typical species, as well as a brief of the practical task.
- A lot of our peatlands are degraded and eroded now due to draining for forestry and agriculture or cutting for fuel and horticulture. This lowers the water table of a peatland and damages the habitat.
- Healthy and intact peatlands generally have high and stable water tables.

- Healthy peatlands are wet most or all of the year.
- Healthy peatlands have pools of open water and are dominated by Sphagnum moss
- On a healthy peatland, specialist species that thrive in the wet environment are present such as round-leaved sundew, cotton grass, curlew, golden plover.
- Peatlands are typically flat or gently sloping but have micro topographical features such as hummocks (slightly raised areas) and hollows (depressions). These small create a mosaic of wet and slightly less wet areas, which support different plant and animal species.

Features habitat models should have:

- Pools of standing water
- Sphagnum dominating but other specialised bog plants present.
- The hummocks and hollows (hummocks are clumps of sphagnum and heather. Hollows are wet depressions, usually with sphagnum too)
- Some suitable animal species present on peatlands