



RE-INTRODUCTION



European Beaver



THIS TEACHERS' SHEET aims to let you know what is involved in your chosen activity so that you can prepare your class for the day and help them to get as much out of their visit as possible. Trips and visits away from school are expensive, but if planned carefully, a visit to the Park can provide a basis for a wide range of activities across all aspects of learning. Linking your visit to activities at school, before and afterwards, will really strengthen the learning experience for your class and will make the most of the time and money spent during your visit to Highland Wildlife Park.

PRIOR TO YOUR VISIT Teachers can visit the Park free of charge to help with lesson planning and to make sure you know the layout and facilities available at the Park. Please contact the education officer on [01540 651981](tel:01540651981) to arrange your free visit. If you require any help or more information prior to your visit also contact the Education Officer on hwpeducation@rzss.org.uk.

Remember that a visit to the Highland Wildlife Park can offer a great learning platform for many different subjects and topics such as English, Art and Current affairs—be flexible and imaginative in your approach to your visit and how you use your visit to develop the key capabilities in your class.

DURING YOUR VISIT to the Park your class will have the chance to look at many animals that once lived in the forests of Scotland, as well as seeing animals from around the world. We will discuss what animals once lived in the UK and the reasons why the animals have disappeared. There will be the chance to ask questions as well as lots of interesting facts, stories and explanations from our education officers.

Things to encourage your class to think about to **HELP YOU GET THE MOST FROM YOUR VISIT**

- How do other people feel about having to live with potentially dangerous animal around the world, such as tigers in India, wolves in Russia, lynx in Scandinavia and bears in the US.
- How have other people learned to cope with animals that have been re-introduced into their country.
- What animals have successfully being reintroduced to the UK? (White tailed eagle, red kite, and the great bustard).
- Which animals are illegal aliens in the British countryside? i.e. re-introduced when they should not have been, like the rabbit, ruddy duck, sika deer, grey squirrel, ringneck parakeet, pheasant, mink etc). Do they cause any problems?
- How and why have these animals come to call Britain their home?
- If we have lived with them for so long do we need them back at all?

European Wolf



White-tailed Sea eagle



VOCABULARY - encourage pupils to investigate what these words mean. They will then be able to understand and take in more on the day of their visit.

Re-introduction

Extinction

In-situ and ex-situ conservation

Persecution

Habitat fragmentation

OTHER TOPICS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST

- What are people's perceptions of predators?
- What is the point of zoos?
- Zoos and conservation
- Animals at risk
- Evolution
- Animal observation and enrichment
- Polar bear evolution and adaptation
- Skulls, teeth and diet
- Wildlife crime
- Enclosure design



European
Elk

ACTIVITIES FOR THE CLASSROOM - BEFORE OR AFTER YOUR VISIT

- How have these animals adapted to survive in the wild?
- Where have these animals survived outside the UK, after they became extinct in the UK?
- Why did these animals survive and the animals that lived in UK did not?
- How have these animals adapted to survive in the wild?
- What pressures forced the animals to extinction?
- What happens if the top predators are removed from the ecosystem?
- Would you feel safe with predators in the British countryside.

HISTORY

- How have animals left their mark on history and local folklore in the UK, for example the wolf and the Legend of Gelert, the last wolf of Scotland, Romulus and Remus?
- Where has the Scots Caledonian Pine forest gone?

Link

<http://www.treesforlife.org.uk/forest/mythfolk/index.html>

<http://www.beddgelerttourism.com/gelert/>

http://www.historyonthenet.com/Romans/legend_of_rome.htm

<http://www.britishbigcats.org/>



Eurasian
Lynx

ENGLISH

Investigate stories / creative writing with a theme based around animals that could be re-introduced in the UK.

Encourage pupils to discuss and investigate facts before forming opinions about re-introduction.

Are there any 'big cats' in the British countryside? Where did they come from and why?

RESOURCES

Links

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-1189460/Beavers-released-wild-time-500-years.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/7330504/Bears-lynx-wolves-and-elk-considered-for-reintroduction-into-British-countryside.html>

<http://www.scottishbeavers.org.uk/>

<http://www.canislupus.info/ukwolf.html>

http://www.treesforlife.org.uk/beaver_reintroduction.html

http://www.wolvesandhumans.org/wolves/wolf_reintroduction_to_scotland.htm

http://www.treesforlife.org.uk/forest/missing/Hetherington_lynx_ECOS.pdf



European
Brown Bear