



Endangered Ecosystems

This activity day encourages pupils to think and learn independently about how physical and human processes interact to produce a moorland environment. Pupils are provided with individual work books in which to record evidence throughout the day in order to answer the question ‘*Is moorland an endangered ecosystem?*’

The day consists of two activities, geocaching and a moorland walk, each lasting 1½ to 2 hours.

Geocaching is based in the grounds of the visitor centre. Pupils use maps and handheld GPS units to locate hidden boxes (geocaches) containing clues about the value of moorland.

The moorland walk is a circular walk of 2 ½ km from the visitor centre. Along the route pupils carry out practical fieldwork activities and collect evidence to answer the key question.

Age Range: Designed for KS 3 but can be adapted for KS 4

Duration: 3 ½ hours plus a lunch break

Location: The Moors National Park Centre

Main Curriculum Links: Geography

How human and physical processes interact to influence and change an upland environment and create moorland.



Key Learning Objectives Pupils should ...	Learning Outcomes
<p>Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> learn how moorland developed and how it is maintained by human activity collect, analyse and evaluate evidence to determine if moorland is an endangered ecosystem learn how to use GPS technology for navigation <p><i>Other skills involved</i></p> <p>Team working Problem solving Observation</p>	<p>All pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> use GPS technology to navigate to specific locations describe some characteristics of a moorland environment and how it is used by people use appropriate equipment to carry out practical fieldwork activities
	<p>Most pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain how GPS technology uses satellites to work describe how moorland is managed list some of the threats to the moorland ecosystem record accurate measurements and come to appropriate conclusions
	<p>Some pupils will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain how moorland is under threat and the actions that must be taken if this rare ecosystem is to be conserved discuss the validity of evidence collected and conclusions made

Assessment for Learning

We assess learning using a variety of techniques appropriate to the activity such as: questioning, questioning games, observing how well pupils are performing tasks, checking results, quizzes and feedback forms.

Ideas for Extending Learning Before and After this Activity

Before – familiarise pupils with the concept of climate change and the term ‘carbon sink’.

See ‘*Investigating Moorland*’ at the link below - a set of resources designed to increase pupils’ understanding of a moorland environment. Includes free downloadable worksheets on biodiversity, sustainability, management, conservation, environmental change and climate change.

<http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/about-us/school-and-group-visits/schools-and-colleges/key-stage-3/resources>