

BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK

Brecon Beacons National Park Education Service YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre



Mammals of the Wood KS2 Science

Learning Objectives

During this course pupils should learn :

To identify different types of habitat.

That different animals are found in different habitats.

To make predictions of types and number of mammals that will be found in different habitats.

To observe the conditions in a local habitat and make a record of the animals found.

To use keys to identify mammals.

That animals are suited to the habitat in which they are found.

To identify the food sources of different animals in different habitats.

That food chains can be used to represent feeding relationships in a habitat.

To recognise ways in which living things and the environment need protection.

To use the information collected for data handling purposes.

Course description: This course requires an evening and a short morning session the following day and is a rare opportunity to see woodland mammals close up. In the morning they learn about the mammals found and their place in the food chain. It may also be possible to combine this activity with investigating the variety of moths in the area.

Introduction: The children are given an introduction to the characteristics of woodland mammals and shown how to set humane traps. They make predictions about the number of mammals found and the species.

Main Activity: During the evening the children, working in small groups, set the traps in two distinct areas of the woodland adjoining the centre. They return the following morning and use keys to identify any mammals found. The children weigh the mammal and discover how the animal has adapted to its environment and how man can threaten it. The activity ends with a food chain game to show how the creatures and plants of the wood are interdependent.

Data about the mammals has been collected over a number of years. This provides the opportunity for follow up work especially data handling.

Moths: Depending on weather conditions it may be possible to also set a humane moth trap during the evening and then observe, identify and release the moths the following morning.

Links with QCA Unit 4B Habitats
Unit 6A Interdependence and Adaptation