

Species STORIES

Birds, bees, bats and butterflies!



HELP US TO #RENATURE
SOUTH DOWNS
NATIONAL PARK

WOL
WRITING
OUR
LEGACY

Funded by
UK Government

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ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

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Created by Gemma Weekes

In partnership with South Downs National Park Authority

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ABOUT



Species Stories is a project by Writing Our Legacy and the South Downs National Park Authority. Eight BIPOC writers made new poems and stories about birds, bats, bees and butterflies in the South Downs.

The aim is to inspire care and imagination. By telling these stories, we can help nature recover and grow strong for the future.

01



The project is about helping nature. Many animals and plants are in danger, and we need fresh ways to care for them.

02



It builds on earlier projects. Writing Our Legacy has worked with the South Downs National Park Authority before, giving writers space to explore nature, history and culture.

03



Species Stories mixes art and science. Poems, stories and facts come together to help young people connect with wildlife.



05



How can storytelling help to protect the natural environment?

06



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OUR PLAN FOR TODAY

- 01. Background:** About the Species Stories project
- 02. Reflection** What facts can you remember about birds, bees, butterflies and bats?
- 03. Species facts:** Learning about bird, bee, bat, and butterfly species of the South Downs
- 04. Reading:** Reading and discussing extracts from the Species Stories project
- 05. Creating:** your chance to create your own species stories!



take notes

TIME TO REFLECT...



What facts can I remember about bats, birds, bees and butterflies?



DISCUSS

SKETCH



Extract from...

DIARY OF A POTTER FLOWER BEE

BY RONA LUO

Day 153

I wake hot and thirsty but there's not a drop to drink. This cocoon is feeling cramped – I can't be here a minute longer! Its tight weave splits under my teeth. The cave walls crumble easily against my jaw as well. As I chew my way out, I see other empty cells like mine. My neighbours must have left too.

What does *epistolary* mean?



Have you read any other books, stories or poems in the form of a journal or letter?

What does 'imagery' mean? Can you spot any in the extract?

There's a light ahead, and the familiar rolling liquid sounds clearer. Salty air rushing into the cave cools my head. Suddenly my body is not wriggling, but crawling with legs. I have legs! One, two in the front, one, two behind, and one, two in the back. I can move so much faster now.

All the hairs on my body are standing up as I approach the mouth of the cave and see a huge expanse of the water, with bands of dark blue, light blue and aqua-green waves lapping towards me. So this is the liquid I'd been hearing. I jump towards the water, flapping my wings. I have wings!

Extract from...

A POEM BY BECHTENSTEIN'S BAT

AS TOLD TO DULANI KULASINGHE

My rattle-mouse body's
been here since the ice age
west to Devon, east to Kent
north as far as Worcester and Bucks

I tumble slip swoop
through my canopy chandelier
dark but for the stars
my tk-tk-tk-tk-tk tk-tk-tk-tk-tk
piano piano
a quiet concert on high



compare
&
contrast

Extract from...

BARZ'S BALLAD

MARVA CARTY

"I'm Barz, slayer of the night air
My sound bombs dart from here to there
Nobody around here can defeat me
I am the champion of poetry.

Barz of lyrics, Barz of sound,
I hit my target before they turn around.
No one in this neck of the woods is badder than me,
But yeah, let's see who wants to test me.

How are the extracts *different*?
How are they the *same*?



Extract from...

A MOMENT BETWEEN

RAWZ

Three times in the summer
We'd shed our old skin
To become something new
Then rest until spring
When winter was over
We dissolved what we were
In a space we created
For something new to emerge



What part of a butterfly's life cycle does this remind you of?

What's a 'half-rhyme'? can you spot any in the extract?



Extract from...

SHAPE OF THE SKY

JOSE HALL

In late April, we reunite with honeysuckle
— gather, shape, build our twiggy base.
By May, the first clutches are laid.
We take turns with the eggs, sit for fifteen days.
Wildflower seeds nourish new hungry mouths.
Five nights pass; fresh eyes open.
Ten more turn; wings test the air.
We gather, shape, build, share.

What is being
described in
this extract?

Any new
vocabulary
words?

What is 'repetition'?
Can you spot any in
the extract?



TIME TO CREATE

Make your own species story!

What story can ***you*** tell about birds, bees, bats or butterflies? The prompt sheet will give you all the inspiration you need to make a species story of your own!



Song?

Diary
entry?

Rap
lyrics?

Spoken
word?

Short
story

Monologue?



THANK YOU

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