

**Title: Protect the Lowland Heath Poster [50 mins, KS2]**

Learning Objective: To understand why lowland heath needs protection.

Key Environmental Concept: Biodiversity

Learning about the unique biodiversity that exists within local wild heathland.

Assessment Statements

By the end of this session:

- ⇒ all children will be able to describe a lowland heath
- ⇒ most children will be able to name species living in lowland heath and recognise unique characteristics.
- ⇒ some children will be able to describe why lowland heath is under threat and what we can do to protect it.

Resources:

Paper, colouring pencils

Key vocab:

Lowland Heath, habitat, biodiversity

Session plan

1. Watch the "[Wildlife in the Lowlands Heath](#)" video from 00 - 00:50: [5 mins]
  - a) Clarify with pupils what 'habitat' means and what it means to say that lowland heath is "One of the rarest habitats on earth"?
  - b) Who can think of other examples of habitats? (rainforests, woodland, grassland, ocean, seashore, parks, buildings?)
2. Play the 'Lowland Safari' game using the Spotter's Guide (Appendix A) [10 mins]
  - a) Continue [watching the video](#) from 00:50- 8:56
  - b) See how many different types of plants or animals you can spot.
3. Group discussion on Heathland as Habitat: Why is the heathland a good habitat for these plants and animals? What does it provide? [5 mins]
4. Loss of habitats: Continue [watching the video](#) from 08:56 - 10:30 [10 mins]
  - a) Teacher clarifies Key fact: "95% of Lowland Heathland has been lost worldwide and 20% of what is left is in the UK".
  - b) Ask children to guess why the lowland heath is being lost
  - c) Group Discussion: Given what the healthland provides, what will happen to these plants and animals if we don't protect the remaining Lowland Heath? e.g. Where will Field Crickets meet for mating etc?
5. Design a poster to explain why lowland health is important and why we should protect it. [15 mins]
  - a) Teacher gives pupils Appendix B with key facts about the lowland health to support them in making a poster which highlights the importance for biodiversity.
  - b) During this exercise the teacher has the option to leave on the [Heathland Wildlife playlist](#) to remind pupils of the plants and animals and use the bingo sheet as a reminder.
6. Lesson ending: Share posters [5 mins]
  - a) Poster gallery: Half the pupils hold up their posters whilst the other half view and appreciate, then swap. Talk to your desk partner about some posters you liked and why.

**KS2 Science Curriculum:**

- identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats.
- describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other

**Glossary**

Habitat = an area or region where a plant or animal naturally grows or lives.

Biodiversity = the many different kinds of life on Earth and how they work together to stay healthy.

**What does the Heathland provide?**

Burrows for Sand Lizards  
 Bugs to eat for Dartford Warblers  
 Water for Dragonflies to lay eggs,  
 Heather for Silver Studded Blue Butterfly's eggs  
 Mating place for Field Crickets and Natterjack Toads.  
 Boggy soil for Common Haircap Moss (draw out what plants and fungi need as well as animals)

**Why is Heathland being lost?**

Towns and roads  
 Pollution and arson  
 Mining and farming  
 Poor management  
 Lack of understanding of biodiversity

Taking it outside:

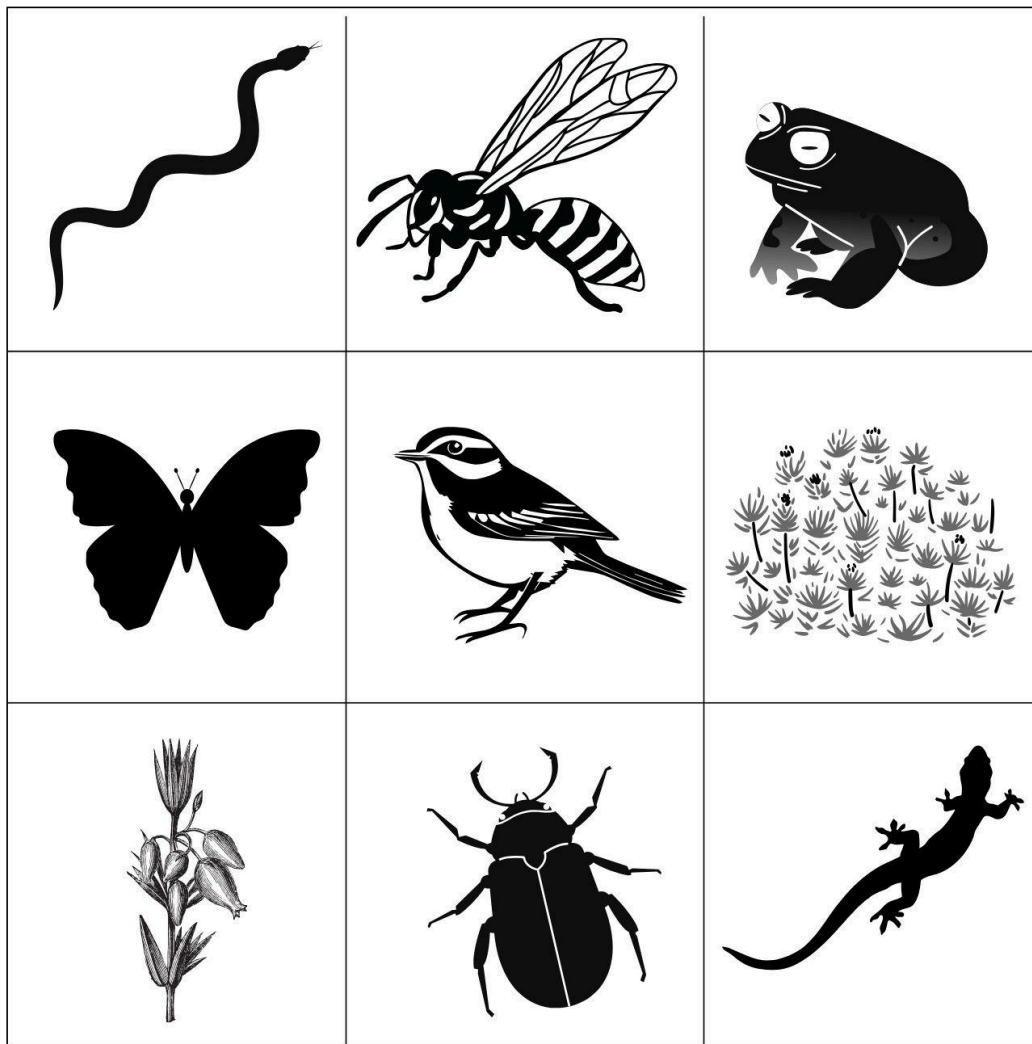
Sign up to the National Education Nature Park scheme to survey the habitats and biodiversity in your school grounds (See example survey [here](#) and additional resources below).

Appendix A: (can be printed double-sided with Appendix B)

# Lowland Safari Spotter's Guide



1. Tick each plant or animal when you see it.
2. Draw or write down why it likes the heathland.



## Appendix B: Key facts about the lowland heath

- a) 95% of Lowland Heathland has been lost worldwide and 20% of what is left is in the UK.
- b) In the UK we have only about 16% left of the area that existed in 1800. Most of this loss has taken place recently.
- c) Natterjack Toad is said to be the loudest toad in Europe.
- d) Dartford Warblers are only found in Lowland Heaths.
- e) All six native British reptiles are found in some lowland heaths in Britain.
- f) Boggy mires and pools provide a home for a fascinating group of plants that specialise in trapping insects to supplement their diet, such as the sundews.
- g) Most heathlands have traces of human use from thousands of years ago (8,000 to 6,000 BC) right up to the present day. Heathlands are ancient history!



Additional Resources:

[Lowland Heath: A Cultural and Endangered Landscape, English Nature](#)

[UK Terrestrial & Freshwater Habitat Types: Lowland Heathland Habitat descriptions](#)

Visit the [National Education Nature Park and Climate Action Awards website](#) to register to join, and access a library of free curriculum-linked resources that embed nature and climate education across all subject areas.