

YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT 2020

Session sheet

These questions can be shared with the class but we don't want to encourage you to print out sheets. What we would really appreciate is if students were given the time to complete our anonymous survey called "The Natural World and Me". This will give us an opportunity to measure the impacts of sessions like this on young people. The survey is GDPR compliant, requires no registration and takes just over 10 minutes.

Pause the video just after each summary slide to do the quick activity/questions as a class.

SECTION 1—WHAT IS A PEATLAND?

Can you identify three ways peatlands benefit people?

What is peat made up of?

Can you name the moss that's so important?

SECTION 2—HOW DO PEATLANDS CHANGE THE CLIMATE?

On the peatlands map it shows some Scottish peatlands are more than 8m deep, around how long have they been forming and removing carbon from the atmosphere?

Why do you think the decomposition is so slow in the boggy, waterlogged areas?

Peat is very dark in colour due to its high organic content, if compressed over millions of years it would turn into a commonly known fossil fuel with a higher energy density—can you guess what?

SECTION 3—HOW CAN PEATLANDS BE PROTECTED?

In the pictures of Black Hill, around 1m of peat has been lost in 30 years. Around how many years would it take to replace that peat?

Climate change is causing more periods of intense rainfall. How could keeping the hills wet and covering them with sphagnum help people living further down in the valleys?

SECTION 4—WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT PEATLANDS?

List some of the things you can do to help.

Can you think of any other things that might help?

Are there any facts that could help you raise peat's profile?

Want to help even more? Take the survey—follow this link <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/thenaturalworldandme2/>

Or scan this QR Code—



The more young people that complete the survey, the better we will understand how to create impactful engagement.

Thank You!

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Session sheet—**Teachers Notes**

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SECTION 1—WHAT IS A PEATLAND?

Can you identify three ways peatlands benefit people? **Minimising flood risk, reducing fire risk, enjoyable to visit for wildlife, reducing CO2**

What is peat made up of? **Partially decomposed plants,**

Can you name the moss that's so important? **Sphagnum Moss**

SECTION 2—HOW DO PEATLANDS CHANGE THE CLIMATE?

On the peatlands map it shows some Scottish peatlands are more than 8m deep, around how long have they been forming and removing carbon from the atmosphere? **Over 8000 years**

Why do you think the decomposition is so slow in the boggy, waterlogged areas? **Lack of available oxygen for aerobic bacteria (pore spaces full of water)**

Peat is very dark in colour due to its high organic content, if compressed over millions of years it would turn into a commonly known fossil fuel with a higher energy density—can you guess what? **Coal**

SECTION 3—HOW CAN PEATLANDS BE PROTECTED?

In the pictures of Black Hill, around 1m of peat has been lost in 30 years. Around how many years would it take to replace that peat? **Around 1000 (approx. 1mm per year)**

Climate change is causing more periods of intense rainfall. How could keeping the hills wet and covering them with sphagnum help people living further down in the valleys? **Reduced flood risk as it slows water down holding in on the hill**

SECTION 4—WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT PEATLANDS?

List some of the things you can do to help. **Be Fire Aware, no BBQ's in peatland areas, avoid trampling exposed peat, pass the message on (teachers, friends, parents, MP), also sustainable behaviour as climate change is affecting peatlands negatively**

Can you think of any other things that might help? **Class ideas—is there a nearby peatland? Who manages it? Can you take part in conservation?**

Are there any facts that could help you raise peat's profile? **Peatlands store more carbon than any other terrestrial carbon store, damaged peatlands are adding carbon dioxide so need protection**