

Geography: Who Are Britain's National Parks For?

Year 6 Summer 1

Key Facts

There are 15 National Parks in the United Kingdom, covering over 7% of the land area.

National Parks have three main purposes: to protect and conserve the countryside, wildlife and cultural heritage of the land within its boundaries; to provide open spaces and countryside for the populations of large towns and cities; and to provide a living for the 440, 000 people who live within them.

In 1951, the Peak District was the first area to be designated as a National Park. It has a close connection with millstones; they are part of the cultural heritage that is recognised and protected as part of the Peak District National Park Authority's work.

Peatlands are a type of wetland which are critical for preventing and mitigating the effects of climate change, preserving biodiversity, minimising flood risk, and ensuring safe drinking water. Peatlands are the largest natural terrestrial carbon store. They store more carbon than all other vegetation types in the world combined.

Key Vocabulary

Conservation - The act of protecting something, especially something of environmental or cultural importance, from harm or destruction.

Cultural heritage - The legacy of artefacts (buildings, monuments), traditions and significant landscapes of a society that is inherited from previous generations.

Moorland - A type of habitat found in upland areas in temperate grasslands, savannahs and scrublands. Characterised by low-growing vegetation on acidic soils (see image).

National Park - An area of countryside, or occasionally sea or fresh water, protected by the state for the enjoyment of the general public or the preservation of wildlife.

Peat - A brown deposit resembling soil, formed by the partial decomposition of vegetable matter in the wet acidic conditions of bogs and fens, and often cut out and dried for use as fuel and in gardening.

Preservation - The act of maintaining something in its present state.

Rewilding - Restore an area of land to its natural uncultivated state.

Website Links

- www.youtube.com/watch?v=kND8mpkwy7s
- www.peakdistrict.gov.uk
- <http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-kids/facts-about-nature/facts-about-habitats/>

Enquiry Questions

- Where are the UK's National Parks?
- Why are National Parks described as breathing spaces?
- How was the Peak District formed?
- How is land used and managed in the Peak District?
- What is the geography of the Peak District?
- How does the Peak District compare with National Parks around the world?
- How is the Peak District being protected?

Geographical Concepts

Environmental Geography - looking at how we use the natural world and how people have the ability to change it. Understanding how the environment supports and enriches human life by providing raw materials, food and resources.

Space - examining how natural and man-made spaces fit together. Space involves looking at the significance of location and spatial distribution, and ways people organise and manage the spaces that we live in.

Geographical Skills

- Describe and understand key aspects of the Peak District, including land formation.
- Explain how human activity has caused an environment to change in positive and negative ways.
- Describe and understand key aspects of how land is managed within National Parks, including the Peak District.

Why don't you...



- Visit the Peak District to take some photos of this incredible place? Tilly, in Y6D, took this amazing photo.
- Produce a leaflet for one of the National Parks, designed to persuade tourists to visit?
- Research English Romantic Painters, such as Samuel Palmer, and create your own painting of a National Park?

Map 1: Map of UK Landscapes



Map 2: Map of UK Protected Areas

