



High Weald Hero Activity Card Fancy Fieldwork



Equipment: String, tape measures, pencils, paper, habitat field guide/identification keys e.g. Heathlands in the Weald, Wildflower Grassland in the Weald leaflets - download from www.highweald.org

Location: This activity can be done in a variety of habitats - choose meadows, woodlands, heathland, etc., and compare your findings.

Audience: KS 2

Time: 30 minutes

An opportunity to examine habitats closely

Activity Description: Take the children to chosen habitat e.g. patch of heathland. In groups of up to 4, get them to measure and mark out (using string) a 1m square to work in. Encourage the groups to spread out within the chosen area. The children now need to count how many different species there are in their metre square. They could also note down the density of the each species according to the DAFOR scale in the table below:

DAFOR Scale	% cover of this species within the measured area
Dominant	>75% cover
Abundant	51-75% cover
Frequent	26-50% cover
Occasional	11-25% cover
Rare	1-10% cover

Post investigation, ask the children to compare their results. Were different species numbers found in different areas? Why might this be? How species rich was an area of heathland compared to an area of woodland? Use the data collected to promote discussion and create bar charts and graphs.

High Weald Teaching Point: There are many species-rich habitats in the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), home to a vast array of plants and animals. Management of each habitat determines how many plants live there - on an improved grassland you may only find 5 or 6 common species, however in an unimproved wildflower grassland you are more likely to find between 75 and 100 different species. If looking on heathland don't be discouraged by only finding a few plant varieties, they will be much rarer than those on improved grassland - a good discussion point with the children!



Check out the Learning Zone at www.highweald.org