



High Weald Hero Activity Card

Hedgerow Survey



Equipment: Tape measures, paper, pencils. A hedgerow identification sheet may also be useful - download from publications at www.highweald.org

Location: Outside, near a hedgerow.

Audience: KS 2

Time: 45 minutes

Learn about what grows in hedges and why they are important habitats

Activity Description:

1. Take children to a place where there is a hedge. Encourage them to look at the different leaves and count how many different varieties they can find. How many can they name and identify? Can they find any berries or fruits and match them to the leaves e.g Holly, bramble, Rosehip?
2. Discuss why hedges are important (e.g., home to a variety of plants and animals, provide shelter for crops, indicate boundaries) and observe whether or not this hedge links with any others - hedges often form an intricate network for plants and animals!
3. You could also look at landuse surrounding the hedge and look for clues to help you decide how old the hedge might be.
4. Finally, help the children to use their numeracy skills to measure the height, width and length of the hedge at various points.
5. Items found or collected could be taken back to the classroom for further identification and discussion.



High Weald Teaching Point: Hedges represent decisions made by our ancestors over hundreds of years. Hedges in the High Weald have several functions. They indicate land ownership and parish boundaries, assist with livestock management, provide shelter for farm animals and crops, and would once have been a source of timber and fuel. Hedges are an integral part of the rural character and special distinctiveness of the High Weald landscape. Hedges are either natural and unplanted (the remnants of the ancient woodland which once covered much of the High Weald) or planted (mainly a result of the enclosures in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Many of these are straight and were created using Hawthorn) However, planted hedges are most common in the Low Weald.

