

# WHY ARE SOME PLACES SPECIAL?

## SUPPORT MATERIALS

If you need further support on specific aspects of outdoor learning these materials can enhance the engaging experiences you are providing. They can support you as you design, plan and implement your curriculum. Outdoor learning is a great way to develop learners' integral skills (creativity and innovation, critical thinking and problem-solving, personal effectiveness, planning and organising). You will want to focus on why learning matters and ensure you are meeting your learners' needs.

These materials show paths that could be taken through the activity. These are not meant to be prescriptive. You should adapt your approach depending on your learners' needs and interests and your local area.

### OVERVIEW

Learners explore their ideas about what a 'landscape' is and consider their favourite outdoor place and why they might want to protect it, who from and how they might do it. They find out about designated landscapes in Wales, locating them on a map and finding the nearest to their school. Learners explore the special qualities of each designated landscape in Wales and list what they think are the special qualities of a National Park in Zimbabwe. Learners identify an area in the locality they think would make a good, designated landscape and make a poster to tell others about this designated landscape and why they should visit it.

### CURRICULUM FOR WALES

#### Areas explored:

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Well-being
- Humanities
- Languages, Literacy and Communication

Activity also incorporates aspects of cross-curricular skills outlined in the LNF and DCF.

## RESOURCES



Internet enabled device and internet access.

Access to a hard copy map of the local area around the school.

Means of taking photographs, e.g. smart phones, tablets, cameras, etc.

## DOING THE ACTIVITY



- Most tasks require learners to work in pairs or groups.
- Encourage learners to share their ideas, and through open questioning, explain and justify their ideas when possible. Focus questions have been suggested to guide learners through the tasks.
- Some tasks might be more effective if pairs or groups of learners have access to an internet enabled device.
- When taking learners outdoors, it is essential that the [Countryside Code](#) is adhered to and any relevant risk assessments have been carried out with risks mitigated.

### TASK 1

## WHAT IS A LANDSCAPE?

Invite learners to draw or sketch their favourite outdoor place, e.g. a beach, park, garden, mountain, farm, or street and to consider why they like this place and what they can sense there. Also, encourage them to think about how this place makes them feel.

Learners are shown images of Welsh landscapes and asked to choose a favourite and discuss what they might sense in this place. These images are used to encourage learners to explore their ideas about what a 'landscape' is and to compare this to a National Geographic definition: [Landscape](#).



## TASK 2

**WHY WOULD WE WANT TO PROTECT SPECIAL LANDSCAPES?**

Ask learners to think back to their favourite outdoor place and consider why they might want to protect this landscape, who from and how they might do it. A mind map might be used to record ideas.

Inform learners that they are going to find out about special landscapes in Wales and start by finding out what they already know. Explain that there are eight special landscapes in Wales that are called designated landscapes. Three of these are 'National Parks' and five of them are 'National Landscapes'. Invite learners to match the names of the designated landscapes with their position on a map of Wales. Ask them to find the school on a map and to use the map to locate the nearest designated landscape.

Explain that people and countries all over the world protect special places, not just in Wales. Show learners the image of a National Park in Zimbabwe within the source square and invite them to discuss the questions. After using a map to find out about the special qualities of each designated landscape in Wales, encourage learners to list the special qualities they think the National Park in Zimbabwe has and to compare their list with peers.

## TASK 3

**WHERE WOULD YOU CREATE A DESIGNATED LANDSCAPE?**

Invite learners to consider what they think would make a good, designated landscape and to explain their reasoning. Take them out around the local area to identify an area to nominate as a good, designated landscape and ask learners to consider what makes this place special, why they might want to protect it and how they would achieve that.

Explain to learners that they are going to make a poster to tell others about their designated landscape and encourage them to visit. Take learners back outside to provide opportunities for them to gather information, take photos, make sketches, etc., to help in their poster design. Invite learners to make the poster, share it with other groups, take feedback and to consider what went well and what they would change next time.

## Useful links

Here are some links that might be worth exploring when engaging with this activity.

- [Data Map Wales](#)
- [Working together delivering for Wales - Landscapes Wales](#)
- [National Landscape Association](#)
- [National Parks UK](#)
- [Teaching Resources - National Parks UK](#)

Here are some links that might be worth exploring for each Designated Landscape:

### Anglesey National Landscape

[Anglesey Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty \(AONB\) - Isle of Anglesey County Council](#)

### Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

[Bannau Brycheiniog National Park](#)

### Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape

[Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty](#)

### Eryri National Park

[Eryri National Park](#)

### Gower National Landscape

[Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - Swansea Council](#)

### Llŷn National Landscape

[Llŷn Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty](#)

### Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

[Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)

### Wye Valley National Landscape

[Wye Valley National Landscape](#)

### Other useful activities on Tirlun

Another activity on Tirlun that considers Designated Landscapes in general is:

- [What is a Designated Landscape?](#)

In addition, activities on Tirlun that explore each of the Designated Landscapes include:

- [Exploring our local designated landscape – Anglesey National Landscape](#)
- [Exploring our local designated landscape – Bannau Brycheiniog National Park](#)
- [Exploring our local designated landscape – Clwydian Range and Dee Valley](#)
- [Exploring our local designated landscape – Eryri National Park](#)
- [Exploring our local designated landscape – Gower National Landscape](#)
- [Exploring our local designated landscape – Llŷn National Landscape](#)
- [Exploring our local designated landscape – Pembrokeshire Coast National Park](#)
- [Exploring our local designated landscape – Wye Valley National Landscape](#)