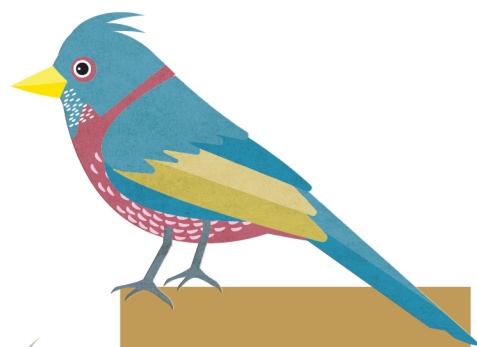


NEW FOREST COMMONING EDUCATION TOOLKIT



ACTIVITY PACK



THE
**Shared
Forest**
OPEN YOUR EYES



Funding raised by
The National Lottery
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



Our Past, Our Future
Working together for the New Forest



1.

HOW TO EARN YOUR BADGE:

STAGE 1



- a. Name five commoners animals.
- b. Commoning Knowledge: Create a poster or car sticker to raise awareness of commoners' animals.
- c. Explain why feeding or touching ponies or donkeys is a bad idea.
- d. Identify three New Forest habitats and name at least one plant and animal living in each habitat.

STAGE 2

- a. Name five commoners animals and the five New Forest Rights
- b. Commoning Knowledge: Plan and record/perform a short news report to teach young people about New Forest Commoners and their animals
- c. Explain how all New Forest residents & visitors can care for the New Forest and commoners animals.
- d. Identify at least five New Forest habitats and explain how the grazing of commoners animals impacts on these habitats.





DISCUSS

Does being afraid or unafraid of people link to their level of danger? Are all animals with owners safe and are all wild animals dangerous? It is really important that the children understand that whilst a pony or donkey may come up to them in a car park and may not be afraid, they are not tame or safe.

COMMONING KNOWLEDGE

Listen to audio clips of commoners talking about their lives in the New Forest at www.realnewforest.org. Support the children in identifying key topics or invite a local commoner in to talk to your group.

Some ideas for topics:

- a. The ponies, cows, donkeys and pigs all have owners known as commoners and are all cared for.
- b. Commoning is a family activity and some of the animals are owned by children just like you.
- c. Driving carefully on the roads really is important
 - i. #add3minutes to your journey
 - ii. slow down when you approach animals
 - iii. 40mph is too fast in the dark
- d. The animals are important because they help create the habitats for other wildlife and plants.
- e. It is important to keep your distance from commoners animals.

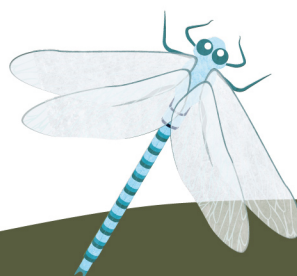
2. SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES AND LEADER NOTES

COMMONERS ANIMALS ACTIVITY SHEETS

WILD OR OWNED, AFRAID OR UNAFRAID SORTING GAME

Place an unafraid of people sign at one end of the hall and afraid of people at the other. As you call out the names of different animals seen in the New Forest, wasp, adder, pony, cow, deer, badger, pig, donkey, bee, dog etc, the children have to choose if the creature is afraid of humans or unafraid and run to the correct sign. Add in additional signs wild and owned. In this game there may be more than one correct answer.

Alternative activity – Wild or Owned Activity Sheet



NEW FOREST
**COMMONING
CHAMPION**
BADGE 

NAME:



CAN YOU NAME THE FIVE DIFFERENT ANIMALS WHICH COMMONERS TURN OUT IN TO THE NEW FOREST?

I SPOTTED THIS ON THE NEW FOREST



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BONUS FACT:

NAME THE COMMON RIGHT ASSOCIATED WITH EACH ANIMAL

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FACT BOX:

All commoners animals are marked by the Agister to show the owner has paid their marking fee. Pigs, cows and sheep have an ear tag. Ponies, cows and donkeys have their tails cut in a pattern.



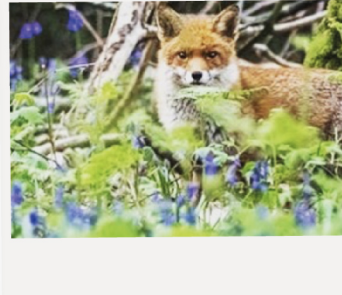
WILD OR OWNED ACTIVITY SHEET



NEW FOREST
**COMMONING
CHAMPION
BADGE**



CAN YOU CIRCLE ALL THE ANIMALS WHICH HAVE OWNERS



FUN FACT:

All commoners' animals are marked by the Agister to show the owner has paid their marking fee. Pigs, cows, and sheep have an ear tag. Ponies, cows and donkeys have their tails cut in a pattern.

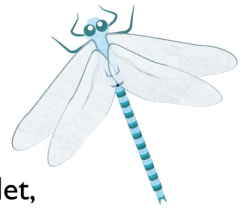


ROLE PLAY: A FAMILY PICNIC IN THE NEW FOREST.

Sadly every year a few people are injured by commoners' animals whilst visiting the New Forest. Usually this is because they get too close to the animals or because other people have fed the ponies and as a result the ponies associate people with food. Read through the role play cards with the children. Allow the children to carry out the role play without giving them any prompts. After the first role play discuss the dangers associated with walking or picnicking near commoners' animals and what the family should have done. If time allows repeat the role play with the children making better decisions and the ponies behaving in a more natural way.

Share these Top Tips for keeping safe on the Forest

1. Always keep clear of animals on the Forest.
2. Never go between a mother and her baby. Mare and foal, sow and piglet, cow and calf.
3. Always walk around a large group of animals – don't walk through the middle of the group.
4. Don't turn your back when you are close to a commoners' animal.
5. If ponies are moving fast, stand still in a group or stand near a large object such as a tree or fence.
6. Never feed a pony, cow, donkey or pig on the New Forest. They don't need feeding because there is plenty of food on the Forest to give them a really healthy diet.
Human food can be bad for them and can give them tummy ache
7. The ponies aren't afraid of you but they are not tame or safe to touch.



COMMONING AND BIODIVERSITY

The New Forest has many very special habitats because of the large number of ponies and cattle which graze the Forest. Some species are even dependent on the grazing for their survival.

The very best way to help children understand this is through a visit to the New Forest. Encourage the children to explore several different habitats and the different flora and fauna they find there. Can they find any evidence that commoners animals have been nearby? Encourage the children to use ID guides to identify some of the plants they see.

Complete the New Forest Habitats Activity sheet matching the flora and fauna to the habitat you would find them in.

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE SOME PICTURES FROM YOUR ADVENTURES:

Share your New Forest Adventures with us on social twitter

@Shared_Forest



HOW TO ORDER YOUR BADGES

Please send an email to: lyndsey@realnewforest.org

1. Tell us a bit about your group including your address.
2. Which activities you have completed or are planning to complete?
3. How many badges do you need?
4. Stage 1 or Stage 2?
5. Pin badges or sew on badges?



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