

# Habitat Game

Peatbogs are often damaged or destroyed when they are drained to keep livestock or to plant trees. Others are cut for fuel which often results in the destruction of the habitat completely. This game demonstrates the importance of peatbogs to the wildlife that depends on them.

- Children should understand that animals are adapted to live in particular types of habitat and need them to survive.
- If a habitat is destroyed, the wildlife that depends on it will be lost.

## Resources

Plastic hoops to represent the habitats. (5 or 6)

## Instructions

1. Place the hoops on the ground at least 5 meters apart
2. Explain that each hoop represents a peatbog habitat and the children are all animals that use the habitat (ie, sundew, hen harrier, adder, sphagnum etc...)
3. Whenever you say 'fly/disperse/move' (depending on animal) the children all move to another peatbog.
4. Do this a few times and then remove one of the hoops. Explain that this habitat has been drained to make way for forestry. Play the game again and any child that can't fit into the hoop goes to 'bog heaven' (pre designated area), as there is only enough food and habitat to support a certain number of animals and plants. Keep playing and remove other hoops until there is one left. If you destroy the final one there will be no bogs left!
5. Have a follow up discussion with the group. Emphasize the need to conserve and protect bogs in East Ayrshire. Can the children think of any other habitats that are in danger of being lost locally or around the world?