



The Countryside Code, Keeping special places special

Understanding rights and responsibilities: The Countryside Code

KS2 lesson 1: Teachers Information and worksheet

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Introduction

Learning objective

To understand rights and responsibilities on individuals and communities in relation to the rural environment in England.

Curriculum link

Citizenship, rights and responsibilities

English and Literacy, explore different sources information, debate environmental issues

Science, consider personal impact and lifestyle choices

Art, create a display or exhibition.

Wider links:

Cultural capital – National Parks and the wider countryside of the UK is a valued cultural asset that millions can enjoy and get benefits from.

UN Sustainable Development Goals: 15 Life on land: Protect Biodiversity and Natural Habitats

Overview

This lesson will provide the opportunity for pupils to explore the rights and responsibilities around access and enjoyment of the English countryside. Understanding key terms such as rural, urban and access.

The green spaces in our urban and rural areas are important for enjoyment, wellbeing and connection to nature but these interests can come in to conflict with protecting the natural environment and people who live and work in these areas. This lesson provides a range of sources on the Countryside Code for pupils to review and debate. Once the presentation is complete you can choose from a practical art/literacy based activity to develop campaign posters for the Countryside Code, you may choose to complete these over multiple sessions. Alternatively, you could split the class in to groups to discuss the Countryside Code and think about whether they would change or add to it, encouraging discussion and observation.

Presentation Slides

Slide 2

Key vocabulary

Key vocabulary

Rural – Countryside areas

Urban – Town and City areas

Agriculture – Areas of farming including crops and animals

Rights of Way – Network of footpaths, bridleways and cycle paths

Slides 3-4

Your class maybe unaware of The Countryside Code. It's not something that's talked about much anymore but in recent years has been increasingly in the news in different ways. Many young people will have an understanding of good behaviour in the outdoors e.g. not littering, but many may have little understanding of the other ways we can look after the countryside.

- Ask the class what rules they might expect to see on the Countryside Code?

The Countryside Code

The Countryside Code was first created in the 1930's and was called the country code. It is a set of rules for visitors to rural and especially agricultural areas of England. The Countryside Code is still important today and in 2020 the government updated the code to make it more suitable for today's visitors. During the COVID-19 pandemic this helped manage the increased number of people accessing the countryside.

Is the Countryside Code still important? Is it just about picking up our litter when we're outside? The short video clip from Newsround talks about the links between the Countryside Code and protecting the environment for future generations, links with climate change and links with our wellbeing.

The two images from BBC News, show the negatives side of access, behaviours that cause damage to our environment.

Image 1 (BBC News) – A wildfire at Rushup Edge in the Peak District National Park. This fire was started by someone cooking on the edge of a footpath. The fire was put out by the fire service, National Park rangers and landowners. BBQs and campfire cooking are potential cause of wildfires and there is a growing campaign to ban the sale of disposable BBQs within the Peak District National Park.

Image 2 (BBC News) – An image of litter in Dovedale in the Peak District National Park. This was a very common site across many popular rural locations and urban parks during the COVID-19 pandemic as more people accessed green space for daily exercise and other indoor activities were closed. Littering continues to be a big problem costing time and money to clean up and the issues it causes for wildlife both on land and in the water.

Is the Countryside Code still important?

As more people want to access the countryside for enjoyment, wellbeing and connection with nature it's important we continue to balance visiting with looking after the environment.

Newsround clip on the Country Code today (1.07min)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/56035869>



BBC News Image April 2021 of a wildfire at Rushup Edge in the Peak District National Park

BBC News Image June 2020 of litter at Dovedale in the Peak District National Park

Slides 5-6

The Countryside Code in use

The Countryside Code has been around for 70 years and it has been updated a number of times. Most recently in 2020 some changes were made and it was republished in the light of increased access during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Countryside Code sets out some guidance around three themes Respect, Protect and Enjoy. It also shows information on following signs and understanding our rights of way network. Some of this information is about looking after the environment, others about keeping visitors safe and some about local people's livelihoods.

Peak District Proud is a local version of the Countryside Code. This was created in 2019 and shows how you can take the messages of the Countryside Code and create a local campaign around important issues.



There have also been animations of the Countryside Code made to highlight the messages for younger audiences.

YouTube film one is a Creature Comforts Countryside Code made by the Department of Farming and Rural Affairs in 2004. This is a fun clip to bring the Countryside Code messages a wider audience.

YouTube film two is a Peak District National Park animation 'Do This'. The animation is a fun interpretation of the Countryside Code aimed at encouraging people to do the right thing rather than saying what not to do.

- The video clips are very short and both have slightly different messages within them. Using the worksheet below watch each video a couple of times and ask the pupils to identify the Countryside Code messages in the films. Are they the same? Why might they be different? What are the good and bad points of the films?

Additional learning - [Peak District National Park website](#) visit our website for other supporting educational material linked to the 'Do This' film. Including make your open snapdragon and 'Do This' discussion points.

The Countryside Code in use

1. Creature Comforts Countryside Code animation (1:01:00)
[The Countryside Code \(2004, UK\) - YouTube](#)
2. Peak District National Park Do This animation (1:36)
[Animation for the Peak District National Park - YouTube](#)

Slide 7

Keeping special places special

The Countryside Code is aimed at giving advice and information about visiting rural areas but there are many urban areas that are important to people and wildlife that suffer with similar problems. Where is your school, rural or urban? How are the spaces near your school treated? Talk about your local spaces or school grounds. What advice would you put in a code for your school grounds or local park? Can you come up with a code that would help people to behave in ways that looked after and improved the area for everyone?

Keeping special places special

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Slide 8

Keeping special places special

There have been many different campaigns and information displayed in urban and rural locations encouraging behaviour to look after the environment. Here are a couple of examples. If you looked around your school, local area or on the internet you will find many more examples. Posters, slogans and information signs are an important way of raising awareness. Usually being funny and eye catching make the campaign more successful. Which of these posters or slogans do you like?

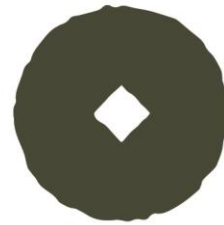
Conclusion activity:

- Pupils to have opportunity to create their own campaign poster on a countryside code or local issues they feel is important for protecting the environment. Please share with us images of your final posters on social media using #PDambassadorschools
- Split the class in to groups and talk about the issues they feel are most important and why. Present their top three issues to the class and why they think it's important. Would the class change the Countryside Code?

Keeping special places special



Take only memories,
leave only foot prints
Respect, Protect, Enjoy

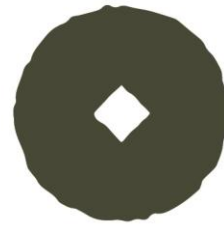


Work Sheets

Activity 1	
<p>The Countryside Code in use</p> <p>Watch two short animations on the Countryside Code. Write down some of the key actions for protecting the countryside from each clip.</p>	
Creature Comforts animation	Peak District, Do This

Activity 2	
<p>The Countryside Code in use</p> <p>What do you think are the good and bad points of each film?</p>	
Good points	Bad points





Work Sheets

Activity 3

Keeping special places special

What would your top three actions be for looking after the countryside?

1.	Why
2.	Why
3.	Why

Activity 3

Activity 4: Keeping special places special

What would your care code be for your school's special places? Come up with some good slogans to encourage people.

<p>What would your care code be for your school's special places? Come up with some good slogans to encourage people.</p>	
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