



National Park Special Qualities

Introduction to National Parks

KS 1 & 2: Teachers Information and worksheet

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Introduction

Learning objective

To understand why it is important to give more protection to certain spaces compared to others and what factors are involved in making those decisions

Curriculum link

Science:

- Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

Geography:

- Comparing an area of the UK with that of another country
- Describe and understand key aspects of physical and human geography

Art:

- Develop practical art skills (Activity 3)

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 to explore and discuss the importance of National Parks and what makes the Peak District special. It acts as a good introduction to the Peak District.

National Parks are areas in the UK recognised for their importance to wildlife as well as providing access to nature for local people. While National Parks have overarching aim and purpose, each National Park has its own set of special qualities that describe what makes that area unique and important.

This lesson, alongside the “Special Qualities Images” (downloadable on our website), explores the special qualities of the Peak District and can be used in discussion and debate to develop spoken language skills. At the end of these notes you will find a set of suggested activities you may wish to complete or use as inspiration for your own.

The special quality images would work well with the special qualities display posters (both found on the Peak District Ambassador Schools page) to make a school display.

Presentation Slides

Slide 2-3

What are National Parks?

All our work is based on the overarching purposes of National Parks across England and Wales. While we want to conserve the land and all it holds (both natural and human made) we also need to find ways for the public to enjoy our spaces.

Discussion points:

- **Do you think one purpose is more important than the other?** *No, we need to try and balance both, doing things that promote each in even amounts. If the two conflict in a situation then the first purpose takes precedence.*
- **Are there any things you can think of which might make it difficult to follow these purposes at the same time?** *Tourism can cause damage to the environment (footpath erosion, litter, animal disturbance). We have the Countryside Code to help with this – we have another lesson which discusses this. If we protect an area for nature we might not want people going there. Some activities people do could get in the way of the natural beauty (jet skis and boats on water, paths for walkers, buildings to be used as visitor centres)*

What are National Parks

National Parks are special places we want to protect for:

Nature, Wildlife and History



People to enjoy and learn from



What are National Parks?

Do you think one purpose is more important than the other?



What are National Parks?

Do you think one purpose is more important than the other?



What are National Parks?

Do you think one purpose is more important than the other?



Slide 4

What are National Parks?

There are 15 NPs across England, Scotland and Wales.

- **Who has visited one/more of them?**
- **Do you think they're all the same?** *No, each National park is special and different.*

What are National Parks?

- There are 15 National Parks in Great Britain. The Peak District was the first in 1951.

Have you heard of, or visited any others?



Slide 5

National Park Special Qualities

The Peak District National Parks 7 Special Qualities. These are why the PDNP is seen as unique and important

The next slides will go through each of the qualities and a little information on each.

National Park Special Qualities

Each national park has a set of Special Qualities – Things that are special to that National Park.

The Peak District National Park has 7 special qualities



Slides 6-8

There are 2 or 3 slides for each of the special qualities. The first is a 'poster' image of the quality such as the first image on the right. It is then followed by 2 descriptive slides. The rest of these notes will not show the poster image, just the descriptive slides.

Depending on the age of the group some of the qualities may need some extra explanation.



Slide 7: You may be able to relate this back to work in Geography on mountains and valleys.

1. Beautiful Views of Dramatic Landscapes

The Peak District is full of beautiful places which have been shaped over millions of years by rivers, humans and the movement of rocks.



Slide 8: Dark Peak and the White Peak:

- **Can you guess which each picture shows?** *The Dark Peak is on the left and the White on the right. How do you think they got their names? The colour of the rocks found in each area gives them the names. The Dark Peak has darker rocks while in the White Peak the rocks are much lighter.*
- **Have you ever seen a really nice view?** *Perhaps the children have walked up a hill and been able to see really far. It doesn't have to be over green space, it could be a view over buildings. Perhaps there's a road that goes up a hill they like to look out over while in the car. Do they feel relaxed, happy, amazed?*

1. Beautiful Views of Dramatic Landscapes

There are two parts of the Peak District known as the Dark Peak and the White Peak.

Can you guess which each picture shows?



In Pairs: Tell each other if you've ever seen a really nice view. How did you feel?

Slides 9-11

Slide 10:

PD has hills, woods, grassland, rivers and reservoirs. Peat Bog (a type of wetland habitat found in our PD uplands) is used here as an example of a globally rare habitat.

Left to Right the photos show: Green Hairstreak Butterfly, Curlew, Lapwing, Sundew (a carnivorous plant)

2. Important Wildlife and Habitats

The Peak District contains a special habitat called Peat Bog:

- It is one of the most important wildlife habitats in the world
- It's home to lots of rare and unusual animals.
- It even helps us fight Climate Change!



Slide 11:

The two pictures are of the Mountain Hare, left in winter and right in summer

- **Do you think these two pictures are of the same animal?** Yes! Mountain Hare change their fur colour. In the winter there is usually snow so the white helps the hare blend in, but in the summer the brown makes them more camouflaged.

2. Important Wildlife and Habitats

The Peak District is the only place in England that you can find the Mountain Hare!



Do you think these two pictures are of the same animal?



Slides 12-14

Slide 13:

- **Have you ever been by a smoky fire? How does it feel when the smoke blows in your direction or you accidentally breathe it in?** It's not a nice feeling! Less than 100 years ago cities were full of smoke which wasn't nice to breathe in.

Land owners in the Peak District had access to lovely clean air, and big green spaces but didn't want people walking over it as it was their land and they had farms on it and other activities. People protested by walking on their land even though they weren't allowed to – trespassing. As it was a mass of people it is known as the mass trespass.

3. Peaceful places that millions of people can visit

- In the 1900s, cities and towns were dirty from factory air and people didn't have access to green spaces.
- In 1932 people protested in the Peak District as they felt they should be allowed to walk freely across it.



Slide 14:

Open and load these videos on You Tube and pause after adverts to avoid listening to them during your lesson.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDWZkXjDYsc>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTsz_tO3iSc&t=10s

The first is a busy city soundscape alongside a still image of a city. The second is nature sounds with videos to go along. Ask the class to note how they feel as they listen to/observe each.

- **Do you have a place you go to feel peaceful? Why is it helpful to have these peaceful places?** *Good to have a place to think, to be calm. Sometimes loud places can get overwhelming and we want somewhere quiet to retreat to. If it's outdoors it's nice to breathe fresh air, to listen to the sounds of nature.*

3. Peaceful places that millions of people can visit

- Now that the Peak District National Park exists, people are free to access it whenever they want!
- There are lots of quiet places to escape the busy cities and towns



Listen to (and/or watch) 30 seconds of each of these videos. How does each of them make you feel? Do you notice any differences?



Slides 15-17

Slide 16:

Left to Right the images show:

- Peveril Castle in Castleton – Lookout, home
- Sheep on a moor – **Do you expect to find sheep here or in green fields?** *Landowners who own upland land like this can really only graze sheep on it as they can scramble around the steeper slopes.*
- Nine Ladies Stone Circle – No one is sure of the uses but could have been a meeting place, or a place for traditions.

4. A countryside that has been visibly shaped by a human history

The Peak District has been shaped by people for thousands of years. You can see this in the villages, walls, stone circles and fields.

What human activities do these images show?



Slide 17:

Much of the farmland in the Peak District is used for sheep (or other animals) but in the White Peak there is more land devoted to cattle for meat and dairy.

The stones in the picture are millstones, traditionally used in mills to grind grains into flour. These stones were made in the Peak District and sent around the world. When no one wanted them anymore, the spares were abandoned across the PDNP.

4. A countryside that has been visibly shaped by a human history

The first farm in the Peaks was 6,000 years ago. 84% of the Peak District is now farming land.



You can still find **mill stones** around the Peak District left over from when they were **manufactured** here.



Slides 18-20

Slide 19:

The picture is from Oak Apple Day in Castleton which involves a procession through the town which is to celebrate the return and restoration of King Charles II. In the picture you can see the 'King and Queen' riding horses. You may find it difficult to spot the King as he has a large flower garland placed over his head.

5. Villages and towns special to the Peak District with local traditions

- The Peak District is full of traditions that villages have been doing for many (even hundreds of) years
- These traditions attract tourists to the Peak District making money for local businesses



Oak Apple Day



Slide 20:

- **Do you have any traditions?** *These traditions could be going to a bonfire or fireworks display on Bonfire Night. Putting out mince pies for Santa. Having fish and chips on a Friday Night.*

5. Villages and towns special to the Peak District with local traditions

- Every summer towns across the Peak District take part in the tradition of well dressing. It is thought to have started as a way of giving thanks for the water!



Do you have any traditions? They could be as a school or at home



Slides 21-23

Slide 22:

The group could split into pairs or shout ideas as a class here. Most outdoor activities will be correct!

6. Space for people to visit, enjoy adventurous activities, discover new interests, connect with nature and improve their wellbeing
There are lots of different activities you can do in the Peak District.

How many can you think of?



Slide 23:

These are only a few of the activities you can do.

- **Has anyone in the done any of them?**

There is something to suit everyone's interests, whether that's something adventurous or just sitting and enjoying nature with a picnic and your favourite book.

6. Space for people to visit, enjoy adventurous activities, discover new interests, connect with nature and improve their wellbeing
There are lots of different activities you can do in the Peak District.

**How many can you think of?
Did you get any of these?**



Slide 24-26

The Peak District has lots of reservoirs which collect and store water to supply for people around the PD to drink, use to flush their toilets, do the washing up etc.

Does anyone know what a reservoir is?

Where do you think they get the water from?

They are human made features often in upland areas where a wall is built to block a river valley off and allow water to flood and fill up behind the wall (a dam).

It feels nice to breathe in fresh air and the best place to do so is in open spaces away from lots of cars and factories.

7. A landscape that gives millions of people clean water, fresh air and wellbeing

- There are **55 reservoirs** in the Peak District supplying **450 million litres** of water a day to Manchester, Liverpool and Sheffield among other places.
- The Peak District gives people chance to go out in the fresh air away from busy cities and pollution.



Slide 26

The final lesson slide of this introductory presentation. You may wish to expand on this lesson using the various resources found on our website.

National Parks Special Qualities

These Special Qualities guide the work we do at the Peak District National Park to protect this beautiful place for nature and for people to enjoy!

The rest of the lessons and resources will help you learn more about our Special place and how you can protect it.



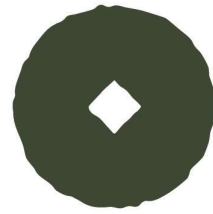
Slide 27-43

Special Quality Quiz.

The next slides give 8 images with 2 options for the correct special quality shown in the picture followed by the correct answer. This is designed to be used with the activity 1 sheet included in these notes.

ACTIVITY 1 Can you work out the special qualities shown in the following pictures?





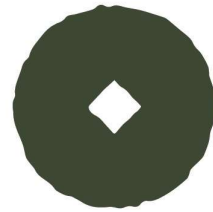
Work Sheets

Activity 1

Match the Special Quality

Your teacher will show you 8 pictures. From the 2 choices, decide which of the 7 National Park special qualities best describes each picture,

1.	5.
2.	6.
3.	7.
4.	8.



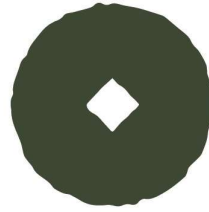
**PEAK
DISTRICT
NATIONAL
PARK**

Activity 2

What are the special qualities of your local area?

Think of a special place near where you live and write down 3 special things that you would want to protect or make better. In the why box, give your reasons for choosing this special thing.

1.	Why
2.	Why
3.	Why

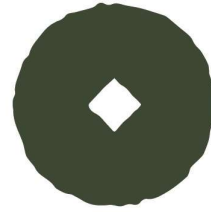


Activity 3

What are the special qualities of your local area?
Make a poster about your special place and its special qualities.

Large empty rectangular box for drawing or writing a poster.





Activity 4

Debate – Which special quality is the most important?

In 7 small groups, come up with reasons why your chosen value is the most important. Use the prompt cards below if you need help.

You can then have a small discussion or a more formal debate around the special quality. Is one really any more important than the other? How do you think people make sure all the special quality is protected?

1. Beautiful Views:

The Peak District is made up of lots of hills, reservoirs, farmer's fields, rocky areas and forests as well as towns and villages. This means there are lots of different types of views made up of lots of different habitats.

2. Wildlife and Habitats:

The Peak District holds lots of different habitats and lots of special animals in each one. For some of these animals, like the Mountain Hare, the Peak District is the only place they live in all of England. Peat Bog is an especially important habitat which is rarer than tropical rainforests and stores more carbon dioxide than all our woodlands.

3. Peaceful places to visit

Going out in nature is good for our wellbeing (how we feel on the inside) and so people are encouraged to go outdoors as much as possible. However, some people don't have many outdoor spaces nearby. The Peak District is full of places to find peace, in woods and around rivers and reservoirs. There are ways to get into the Peak District using public transport if you don't have a car.

4. Human History

The Peak District is full of history. There are signs of old farming methods within the farms still going today. Remains of old industry can be found with millstones scattered over the hills and abandoned quarries.

5. Local Traditions

The Peak District is full of towns with traditions that may have been going for 100s of years. Tourists like to travel in and join in with these traditions and they are special, unique and fun!

6. People enjoy, discover, connect and improve

You can do lots of different activities in the Peak District so you're bound to find something you enjoy and that gets you to spend more time outdoors!

7. Water, Fresh Air, Wellbeing

The Peak District provides water for surrounding towns and cities from its many reservoirs. As it isn't as busy with cars and buildings, there is less pollution so the air is fresher than in the cities. You can taste it!

General Prompts about the special qualities

Does it help people?
Does it bring money to the Peak District and the people in it?
Does it help protect Wildlife?
Is it helping to look after something you can't find or do anywhere else?
Does looking after your value also help one of the others?