



Heritage & Habitat in Your Community
An educational project of
Donegal County Council, Donegal Education Centre & The Heritage Council



Fieldtrip to a Bogland

Basic Details

Names of Students on Team :			
Date of Fieldtrip:			
Time Fieldtrip Started:		Time Fieldtrip Finished:	
Name of Study Site:			
Location of Study Site:			
Weather:			

Exercise 1: Plant Species on the Bog

We are going to use the quadrat to assess the abundance of the various species of plants that may be found on the bog. Half of the teams will sample in the cut (lower) area and the other teams will sample in the uncut (higher) area. Use the table on the next page to record your results. Each team will throw the quadrat 3 times.

Exercise 2: Bogland pH & Water

Here we use a transect - a straight line between two points across a certain area - to find out about the pH (how acid or alkaline something is) of the bog and water levels. Place the transects across a habitat area - e.g. from a dry to a wet area, from a cut to an uncut area or along a slope. Using the pH meter or strips and a ruler, measure the pH and the water level at each 1m interval. Where you do your measuring is called a station. Record your results in the tables below.

pH

Station No.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Water level

Station No.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Using the clinometer (or with metre-sticks, string and spirit level), record the slope along the area crossed by the transect.

Exercise 3: Animals on the Bog

Spend some time looking and listening for some of the many animals that are to be found on the bog. You should spend about ten minutes listening for birdsong. You may not be able to identify the birds you hear but try and determine how many types of birdsong you can hear. By standing still quietly for a few minutes, you should be able to see a number of birds. These could be skylarks or meadow pipits. As you walk through the bogland, small, very fast birds may fly up and dart away in a zig-zag fashion. These are probably snipe, a wetland bird.

Evidence of mammal use might be droppings, tracks or runs (mammal paths). Have a walk around your study area and see what you can find.

You should also look in pools and cut areas for amphibians - frogs and newts. Don't disturb frog spawn but you can use the jam jars to look more closely at tadpoles or adult frogs. Can you find any invertebrates? The larvae of many insects may be found in these important wetlands.

Record your findings below. Don't forget to add any findings to your map.

Birds we saw or heard (describe if you can't identify them)	
Mammal tracks or signs found	
Amphibians (frogs or newts)	
Invertebrates	

Exercise 4: The Bog in Profile

Using the sleán or spade, cut down into the bog as far as you can easily manage. Examine the material you have cut. Describe it in the section below. Have a look at the cut area, can you see any layers of different material? Draw a simple sketch of these in the box provided below and give a brief description of any layers, include colour, texture and any visible vegetation.

Description of cut material (sod)	
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Bog profile: In the right hand box, draw a simple sketch of the bog in profile. Add or indicate colours if possible.	
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