

.....

WHEN:

WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER?:

.....

.....

.....

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PEATLAND DIARY



PEATLAND DIARY

These pages are for you to make notes about your own investigations into peat.
Go out into your local bogs and explore!



Remember to wear wellies and be careful where you walk!

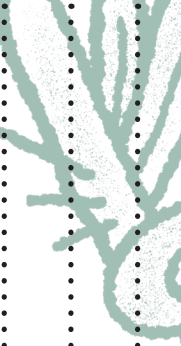
WHERE:

WHEN:

WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER?:

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WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER?:

A green line drawing of a bird in flight, positioned at the bottom of the page. The bird is facing right, with its wings spread wide. It has a simple, stylized body with a small beak and a large eye. The drawing is composed of green lines on a white background.

HOW DID IT FEEL?

HOW DID IT SMELL?



WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

Peat-Fest South-west



ART and ENERGY

WHEN:

WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER?:

PEATLAND DIARY



PEATLAND DIARY

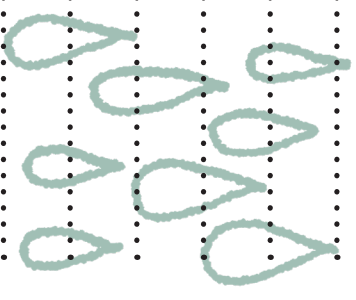
WHERE:

WHEN:

WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER?:

WHEN:

WHAT DID YOU DISCOVER?:



DRAW YOUR FINDINGS!





Peat-Fest
South-West

ART and ENERGY

kennegan (Cornish) - marsh or bog; Zugs (Exmoor) - bogs, soft wet ground; little bog islands, about the size of a bucket, of grass and rushes; Horniwink (Devon) - lapwing; Hombie (Dorset) - a duck; Veggs (Devon) - peat; Oolypuggers (Exmoor) - bulrushes; Plud (Somerset) - the swamp surface of a wet ploughed field

Now use your stats and name to help you imagine what your character looks like, and how they ended up in this bog!

4. Backstory

3. Appearance

These are all peatland related words from South West languages and dialects! Can you guess what they might refer to? Flip the page to find out!

Zugs

Hombie

Horniwink

Veggs

Oolypuggers

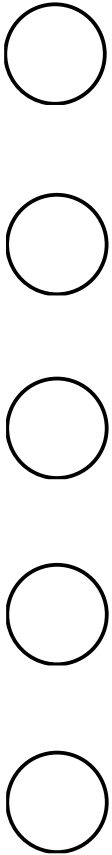
Kennegan

Plud

Some possibilities:

2. Give yourself a name

Strength Depth Decay Charisma Wetness



Use the date (e.g. 23/2), time (e.g. 14:45) and your age (e.g. 16)

1. Get your stats

Preserved pickled in one of the South West's acidic bogs, you've stumbled on a bog body. But who are they? Are they human or... something else entirely? You decide!

BOG BODY GENERATOR

Find some object/ feature near or far, pause and try and turn your head upside down. What does it look like?

STORY GENERATOR

You're out on walk on a peatland.

Follow the prompts to fill in the blank spaces.

The sky was _____ . The air smelt like _____ and reminded me of the time _____ I was walking through _____ following the trail of a _____ in the hopes of _____

The name of the peatland area you are in.

The first bird you see on the walk (or recently, or just any bird that comes to mind).

One word to describe the sky above you.

What does the air smell like?

Write a memory that the smell evokes for you

A name. Invent one by stopping. Closing your eyes, and listening. Write down a word that captures the sound you can hear. Feel free to modify the word.

An object that you can see right now.

A name. Invent one by stopping. Closing your eyes, and listening. Write down a word that captures the sound you can hear. Feel free to modify the word.

finding the _____ which Old _____ had lost. After

After walking silently for at least 10 minutes, touch (gently) the nearest plant to you. Write down an adjective to describe its feeling on your fingers.

walking for a while silently, I felt _____ which was a sure sign

Slowly do a 360 turn. Now turn the other way, stopping when you see something move for any reason. Write down a verb that describes this movement.

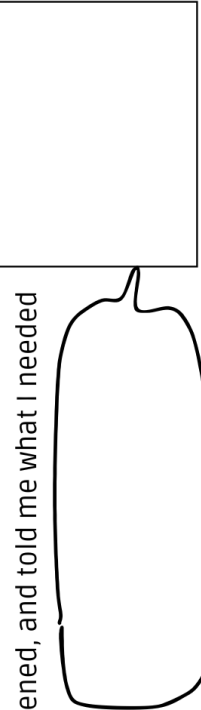
that I was close. Kneeling down to check, the ground _____.

Stare at a patch of moss, a stone, a bush for a good minute or two. Let your eyes blur in and out of focus. Humans find a faces everywhere. Find a face in it. Draw it below.

In front of my eyes a face slowly sprouted,

a mouth opened, and told me what I needed

to know:



PEATLAND DIARY

Did you miss out on our Peat-Fest South-West activities in 2025? No worries! We've created this activity book inspired by the workshops we did over the festival.

FOUND FOLK POEM

OUT OF THE SAME TEXT, SO MANY DIFFERENT POSSIBLE POEMS CAN BE FORAGED, MAPPED, EXCAVATED!

READ THE PASSAGE BELOW ABOUT PEATLAND HERITAGE IN THE SOUTH WEST

FIND YOUR POEM BY CIRCLING YOUR WORDS AS THEY APPEAR IN THE TEXT. DRAW LINES BETWEEN THE WORDS TO SHOW WHAT ORDER TO READ THEM IN, OR CROSS OUT ALL THE OTHER WORDS IN THE TEXT SO THAT ONLY YOUR WORDS REMAIN.

Living intertwined with peatlands for millennia, people in the South West cultivated diverse relationships with their wet landscapes. Nearly 5000 years ago Somerset, we see trackways being made from hazel stakes supporting oak and ash planks. The Sweet Track (dated to 3806 BCE) allowed people to walk through 2km of wet reedbed to get from Westhay to Polden ridge. People placed valuable objects in the shallow water beside the Sweet Track, like a never-used jade axehead originating from the French Alps.

The pollen records preserved in the peat tell us that other peatland areas of the South West were once woodlands. People in the Bronze Age cut trees down for buildings, fences and firewood. Across the South West, they used large granite stones to build homes and create spaces for communal rituals in the newly opened landscape.

Clearing trees gradually shifted the chemistry of the soils, favouring heather over trees and facilitating the development of heathlands and peatlands. In Dorset during the Iron Age and Roman period people would fire pottery by burning the abundant local heather and gorse, before using the ashes as fertiliser.

In the Medieval period, moorlands were often Common Lands where local people had the right to graze animals, collect plants like bracken for animal bedding and cut peat to burn as fuel. In the 12th Century, we find the first reference to dyeing wool on Dartmoor - using peatland plants, fungi and lichens to give various colours.

Through the long history of people and peatlands in the South West, many stories and traditions have emerged. There's Bodmin's Dozmary Pool, where King Arthur is said to have received Excalibur from the Lady of the Lake. Stories of Pixies or Piskies abound around the South West's peatlands, such as those around Withypool in Exmoor.

PEATLAND CRAFTS AND STORIES HAVE EVOLVED BY USING WHAT WE FIND IN OUR LANDSCAPE, ALONG WITH WHAT WE FIND COMING TO US FROM THE PAST, TO HELP US HERE IN THE PRESENT.

WHAT NEW TRADITION WOULD YOU COME UP WITH TO HELP THE SOUTH WEST'S PEATLANDS?

TRADITION NAME: _____ TRADITION DATE: _____

WHAT HAPPENS: _____