

WARM UP

1. Choose from the factors enumerated below the ones that influence the flora and the ones that influence the fauna of a geographical region and write them in the correct column. Sometimes you may choose one factor for both.

temperature; elevation; soil; water; breeding sites; light; food supply; oxygen; precipitation; latitude; man;

Factors influencing fauna	Factors influencing flora

2. Tick the reasons why forests were cut down in the past:

- to be used as fuel;
- don't affect the climate;
- to build dams;
- don't provide shelter and food for many different types of plants and animals;
- to build homes and ships;
- to use the carbon dioxide they produce;
- to clear the land for farming;
- for cultivation;

Vocabulary

1. Match the words with their definitions:

1. fauna	a. an area of land that is beautiful to look at or that has a particular type of appearance;
2. flora	b. an area of land that has not been used to grow crops or had towns and roads built on it, especially because it is difficult to live in as a result of its extremely cold or hot weather or bad earth;
3. habitat	c. the animals of a particular region, habitat, or geological period;
4. landscape	d. the plants of a particular region, habitat, or geological period;
5. wildlife	e. or biome, is the type of environment in which plant and animals live; it is dictated by what kinds of plants grow there, the climate and the geography.
6. wilderness	f. animals and plants that grow independently of people, usually in natural conditions;
7. moorland	g. the cutting down of trees in a large area, or the destruction of forests by people;

8. heathland	h. lowland areas dominated by colourful heather; unlike the water-logged moors, heaths have light and sandy soils;
9. deforestation	i. the action of planting trees on an area of land in order to make a forest;
10. afforestation	j. upland areas with acidic, low-nutrient and often water-logged soils;

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.

1. FLORA

Activity 1.1. Read the text about the flora of the UK and complete the gaps with the words in the list:

<i>oak</i>	<i>natural</i>	<i>highlands</i>	<i>heather</i>
<i>cultivation</i>	<i>summits</i>	<i>maritime</i>	<i>seminatural</i>

With its mild climate and varied soils, the United Kingdom has a diverse pattern of natural vegetation. The 1. _____ vegetation of the British Isles is **deciduous forest** dominated by oak except for northern Scotland, the highest hills of the north and west, the fens and marshes, and the seacoast fringes.

In prehistoric times, 2. _____ forests probably covered the lowland, except for the fens and marsh areas, while *pine forests* and *patches of moorland* covered the higher or sandy ground.

Over the centuries, much of the forest area, especially on the lowlands, was cleared for 3. _____. Today only about 9% of the total surface is *wooded*. Fairly *extensive forests* remain in east and north Scotland and in southeast England. Oak, elm, ash, and beech are the most common trees in England. Pine and birch are most common in Scotland. Almost all the lowland outside the industrial centers is farmland, with a varied 4. _____ vegetation of grasses and flowering plants.

The *moorlands* and *heathlands* that occupy about one-fourth of the total area of the United Kingdom consist of arctic-alpine vegetation on some mountain 5. _____ in Scotland and peat moss, heather, bilberry etc. cover the 6. _____. Similar vegetation exists on high ground in eastern Northern Ireland and on the Mourne, and there are considerable areas of peat moss vegetation on the mountains of Antrim. In the lowland zone, the most common plant of the moorlands is the common 7. _____.

A strip of land immediately bordering the coastline has also largely escaped exploitation by humans and domesticated animals, so that patches of 8. _____ vegetation often appear in approximately their natural state.

Activity 1.2. Now listen and check your answers.

Activity 1.3. Translate the following words into your mother tongue:

ENGLISH	ROMANIAN
1. deciduous forest	
2. marshes	
3. seacoast fringes	
4. extensive forests	
5. elm	

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6. ash	
7. beech	
8. birch	
9. peat moss	
10. heather	
11. bilberry	

Activity 1.4. Read the text again and fill in the gaps with information from the text.

1. The UK has a _____ pattern of _____ vegetation.
2. The natural vegetation of the UK is represented by: _____, dominated by _____
3. In prehistoric times, the lowlands were covered by _____ and the highlands by _____
4. The common trees in England are: _____ and in Scotland _____
5. Moorlands and heathlands occupy _____ of the total area and consist of _____

Activity 1.5. Choose the correct answer:

1. The lowland areas outside the industrial centres have a ___ vegetation.
 - a) natural
 - b) artificial
 - c) seminatural
2. The ___ represent 9% of the total area of the UK
 - d) moorlands
 - e) forests
 - f) heathlands
3. The deciduous forests of the UK are dominated by ___
 - a) pine
 - b) oak
 - c) beech
4. Pine and birch are the most common trees in ___
 - a) Ireland
 - b) Scotland
 - c) England

2. FAUNA

Activity 2.1. Translate the following words into your mother tongue:

ENGLISH	ROMANIAN
1. boar	
2. roe deer	
3. hare	
4. hedgehog	
5. seal	
6. newt	
7. toad	
8. adder	
9. lizard	
10. blackbird	
11. sparrow	
12. starling	
13. grouse	
14. trout	

Activity 2.2. Read the following text about the fauna of the UK and answer the questions that follow.

The fauna is similar to that of northwestern continental Europe, although there are fewer species.

MAMMALS

Some of the larger mammals—wolf, bear, boar, and reindeer—are extinct, but red and roe deer are protected for sport.

Common smaller mammals are foxes, hares, hedgehogs, rabbits, rats, and mice live in most rural areas; otters are found in many rivers, and seals frequently appear along the coast. Rabbits are widespread, and their numbers are increasing. The other nocturnal vegetarian, the brown hare, lives in open lowland country, while the mountain hare is native to Scotland.

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

There are few reptiles and amphibians. Amphibians include three species of newt and five species of frogs and toads, while reptiles comprise three species of snakes, of which only the adder is venomous, and three species of lizards. There are no snakes in Northern Ireland.

BIRDS

In many respects the British Isles are an ornithologist's paradise. The islands lie at the focal point of a migratory network, and the coastal, farmland, and urban habitats for birds are diverse. Roughly 230 species of birds reside in the United Kingdom, and another 200 are migratory. Most numerous are the blackbird, sparrow, and starling. The most common game birds are the wild pigeon, pheasant, and grouse.

FISH

Many British rivers, once renowned for their salmon and trout, have become polluted, and inland fisheries have consequently declined. Freshwater fishing is now largely for recreation and sport. The Dogger Bank in the North Sea, one of the richest fishing grounds in the world, has provided excellent fishing for centuries. Other good waters for fishing lie in the Irish Sea and also off the western coast of Scotland. Chief offshore species are cod, mackerel, herring etc.

1. Which are the extinct mammals in the UK?
2. Give four examples of extinct mammals that live in the rural areas of the UK.

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3. Why are the British Isles an ornithologist's paradise?
4. Which are the species of fish that live in the British rivers?

Activity 2.3. Decide if the following statements are true or false.

1. The UK has a fauna similar to that of western Europe.
2. Seals are found in the UK's rivers.
3. The number of rabbits is increasing in the UK.
4. In Northern Ireland there are a lot of snakes.
5. The UK has had good waters for fishing in the North Sea, the Atlantic Ocean and the Irish Sea.
6. The fauna of the UK is very various.

3. PROTECTED AREAS

Protected areas are areas in the UK which need and /or receive protection because of their environmental, historical or cultural value to the nation. They can be divided according to the type of resource which each seeks to protect.

Activity 3.1. Match the resources protected from the first column with the value from the second one.

Resource protected	Value of the protected area
a. species and habitat	1. biodiversity value
b. landscape	2. geodiversity value
c. monuments	3. scenic/landscape value
d. geology (rocks) and geomorphology (landforms)	4. cultural/historic value

The designation of protected areas in the UK was made possible by the **1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act**. The Act set out how land could be designated as:

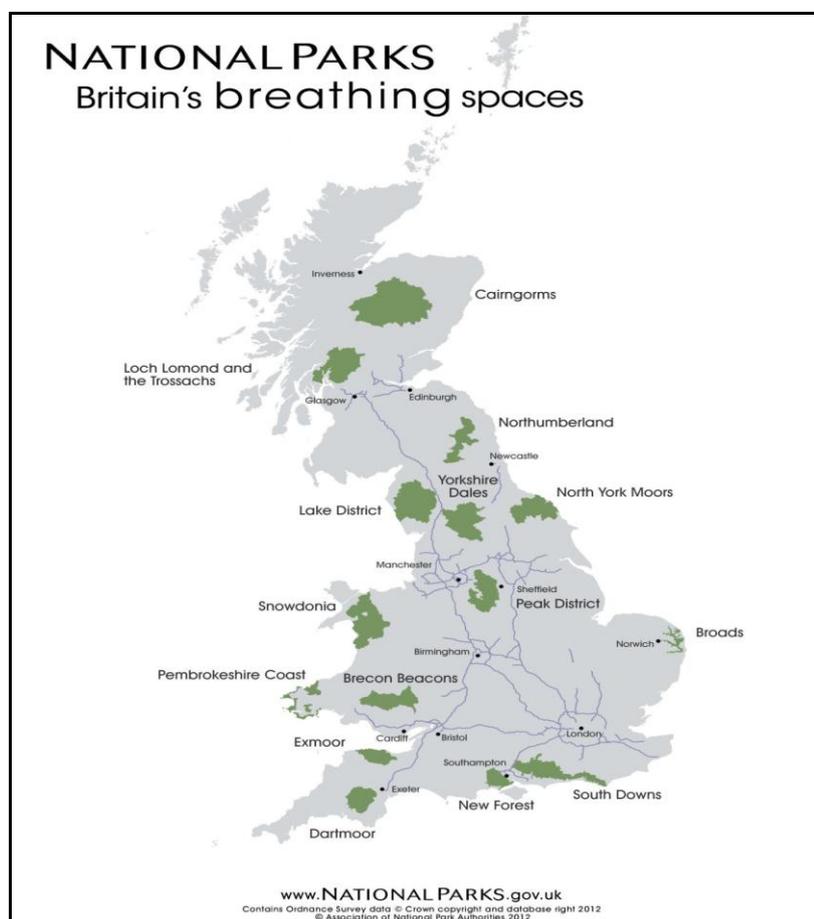
- National Parks
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty - in England, Northern Ireland and Wales
- National Scenic Areas, which are the equivalent for Scotland to the Areas of Outstanding Beauty
- National nature reserves
- Sites of Special Scientific Interest

There are 15 National Parks (10 National Parks in England, 3 in Wales and 2 in Scotland) in the UK and each one is looked after by its own National Park Authority. They are part of a global family of over 113,000 protected areas, covering 149 million square kilometres or 6% of the Earth's surface. They are linked to Europe through the EUROPARC Federation – a network of European protected areas with 360 member organisations in 37 countries.

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Activity 3.2. Match the protected areas in the first column with their definitions in the second one.

<i>Protected area</i>	<i>Definition</i>
1. National Parks	a. are the most important sites for the nation's natural heritage ; are the cornerstones of conservation work, protecting the core of UK's natural heritage;
2. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty	b. manage some of Great Britain's most pristine habitats, rarest species and most significant geology; offer great opportunities to the public as well as schools and specialist audiences to experience the country's natural heritage;
3. National Nature Reserves	c. are areas of countryside that include villages and towns, and which are protected because of their beautiful countryside, wildlife and cultural heritage; people live and work here and the farms, villages and towns are protected along with the landscape and wildlife;
4. Sites of Special Scientific Interest	d. are areas of countryside that include villages and towns; have the same legal protection for their landscapes as National Parks, but are looked after by partnerships between local communities and local authorities;



Activity 3.3. Study the map above and fill in the gaps.

- Lake District National park is in the _____ of England.
- Brecon Beacons is a National Park from _____
- _____ is a National Park in the south-west of England.
- Snowdonia is a National Park in the _____ of Wales.
- New Forest and South Downs are two National Parks in the _____ of England.
- _____ is the National Park with the largest area from Scotland.

Case study: the Lake District National Park



Grasmere in the Lake District (www.bbc.co.uk)

(www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/visiting/maps)

Activity 4. Which is the most important National Park in your country? Make its profile according to the model below and compare it with the Lake District National Park.

Lake District National Park. Park Profile.	
Designated	1951; England's largest park;
Area	2292 square kilometres;
Highest elevation	Scafell Pike at 978 metres;
Scenery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a physical landscape of mountains and lakes of great scenic beauty; • U-shaped valleys and steep and sharp ridges, England's highest mountain and deepest and longest lakes; • sixteen lakes and numerous tarns plus a stretch of coastline;
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40,800 people live within the boundaries of the National Park. (Source: 2011 census) • Population density per square kilometre: 18.4 (Source 2011 census)
Activities	walk, rock climbing, mountain biking, ride, go rowing, sailing, windsurfing, kayaking, fishing;
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.5 million visitors a year (Source: STEAM 2013 - Cumbria Tourism) • Visitors spent £1051 million (Source: STEAM 2013 - Cumbria Tourism)

(adapted from www.lakedistrict.gov.uk)