

2. Setting the scenery... Chalk grassland game cards!

Activity Description

Who thinks they are a whizz at wildflowers or a chalk grassland guru? What even is a guru anyway? Don't worry, it's covered in the game! Challenge the children to play our true and false chalk grassland game to discover more about the downs. Topics covered include habitats, plants, soil types, beasties and bugs! Venture outside the classroom and hang up the true and false signs provided so there is space for the children to move between the two locations. If you want to incorporate some physical education, include animal actions and move them further apart! The true and false signage must be located an equal distance from the 'chalk grassland game' sign. Read out the statements on the cards provided and hold up the accompanying images where required. Once you have read out the statement, give the children a set amount of time to think about their answer and to move to the true or false sign depending on what they think the answer is. We advise cutting out and laminating the cards so they can be used time and time again. This is a great introductory activity to use for habitats or plant topics or a fun way to review learning.

Equipment

- A4 signage and images included within the education pack
- Chalk Grassland Game Start Point and True and False signage
- A4 images to hold up: Bee orchid, Common bird's-foot-trefoil, Kidney vetch and Cowslip
- 30 x True and False game cards.

1. A 'guru' is a teacher, guide, expert or master of certain knowledge or field of study.

ANSWER: TRUE

15. This plant (show image 2) is called 'Common Birds-foot Trefoil.'

ANSWER: TRUE



Game cards

Setting the scenery Chalk grassland game cards!

Curriculum links:

KS1 Science

Plants -

Identify and name a variety of common wild plants.
Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants.

Living things and their habitats -

Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.

Identify and name a variety of living plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats.

KS2 Science

Living things and their habitats -

Identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment.

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

KS1 Geography

Human and physical geography -

Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to:

Key physical features, including soil, hill, grassland, woodland, vegetation, downland etc.

KS1 English

Spoken language and vocabulary.

Extension activities:

This activity provides a great introduction to habitat topics and plants and animals within the local environment. It also links in really well with our 'North Downs animal address' game.



1. A 'guru' is a teacher, guide, expert or master of certain knowledge or field of study.

ANSWER: TRUE



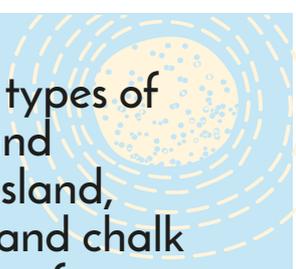
2. A 'chalk grassland guru' is someone who is an expert on all things to do with chalk grassland.

ANSWER: TRUE



3. Kent has several types of species-rich grassland including acid grassland, neutral grassland, and chalk grassland. The type of grassland is influenced by the soil and underlying rocks.

ANSWER: TRUE



4. On a visit to Kent in 1994, Professor David Bellamy said: "Chalk grassland is the European equivalent to tropical rainforest."

ANSWER: TRUE



5. South East England chalk grassland sites are mainly found on limestone and chalk valleys in: Kent, Sussex, Surrey, the Chilterns and the Isle of Wight

ANSWER: TRUE



6. Chalk downland was formed more than 500 years ago when Kent was covered by seawater.

ANSWER: FALSE - Chalk downland was formed more than 85 million years ago when Kent was covered by seawater. The shells of billions of tiny marine creatures fell to the bottom of the sea and it is their remains which eventually built up to create the chalk of the North Downs.



7. Chalk grassland is a common habitat and therefore is not of international importance.

ANSWER: FALSE

Chalk grassland is home to lots of plants and animals and is now very rare and of international conservation importance.

8. Chalk grassland is only found in Dover.

ANSWER: FALSE

Chalk grassland is mainly found on the North Downs and occasional patches on the East Kent coast.

9. Kent supports 5% of the UK's chalk grassland and the UK holds 50% of the world's surviving old chalk grassland.

ANSWER: TRUE



10. Chalk grassland is home to many rare plants and animals which would struggle to thrive and survive in any other habitat.

ANSWER: TRUE



11. Areas of exposed chalk on the downland provide places for solitary bees and wasps to create burrows and lay their eggs.

ANSWER: TRUE



12. Up to 10 species of flowering plants can be found in one square metre of chalk grassland.

ANSWER: FALSE

Up to 40 species of flowering plants can be found in one square metre of chalk grassland.





13. More than 20% of our chalk grassland has been lost since the Second World War.

ANSWER: FALSE

More than 80% has been lost. This is due to many different reasons. For example, some areas have been left ungrazed by animals, so shrubs and trees have taken over or more efficient farming methods have altered the soil so the chalk grassland species struggle to grow.

14. This plant (show image 1) is called a Bee orchid. The flower of the Bee orchid looks like a bee and is hairy to touch to attract male bees. It can even give out a female bee smell to encourage male bees for pollination.

ANSWER: TRUE

15. This plant (show image 2) is called 'Common bird's-foot-trefoil.'



ANSWER: TRUE

16. Common bird's-foot-trefoil has over 70 names including 'eggs and bacon' because the flowers are red and yellow and 'granny's toenails' due to the end of each seed pod looking like sharp nails.

ANSWER: TRUE



17. This plant (show image 3) is called Kidney vetch.

ANSWER: TRUE

18. The flower heads of Kidney vetch (image 3) are heart shaped.

ANSWER: FALSE

The flower heads are kidney-shaped.





19. Rough meadow grass feels really smooth.

ANSWER: FALSE

The leaf sheaths (cases) of the Rough meadow grass feel rough!

20. This plant (show image 4) is called a 'Cowslip'. It's name may have originated from 'Cowslop' meaning cow pat!



ANSWER: TRUE



21. The seeds of the Primrose, a sweet-smelling yellow flower, carry oils which attract ants who help scatter the seeds.



ANSWER: TRUE

22. The plant named 'Lady's bedstraw' comes from the idea that the Virgin Mary laid on it to give birth to Jesus!



ANSWER: TRUE

23. 'Scrub' is the term used to describe a variety of small trees and shrubs.

ANSWER: TRUE



24. Scrub clearance is an ongoing activity in which the plants on the chalk grassland are washed to keep them clean!

ANSWER: FALSE

Scrub clearance is an ongoing activity which removes scrub from chalk downland.



25. Goats are used to conserve (protect) and manage the chalk downland at Trosley Country Park.

ANSWER: TRUE

The goats keep the grass low and stop the scrub from taking over by munching all the shoots.

26. Good chalk downland management relies on the creation of a mosaic habitat.

ANSWER: TRUE

It is important that a patchwork of different habitats is created across the downs to provide food and homes to as many creatures as possible.



27. Ant hills are bad for the chalk grassland because they cast shade on the surrounding grasses.

ANSWER: FALSE

Ant hills are very important to the chalk grassland habitat, as they provide mini islands for reptiles to bask and insects to lay their eggs.

28. Chalkhill blue and Adonis blue caterpillars like to eat a plant called Horseshoe vetch



ANSWER: TRUE

Horseshoe vetch is only found on chalk grassland.

29. Yellow meadow ants protect the Chalkhill blue butterfly larvae in return for a sugary drink supplied by the larvae.

ANSWER: TRUE

The ants carry the larvae into their nest where it produces a sugary substance.



30. In the mornings, reptiles such as adders and lizards like to hide from the morning sun in scrub areas.

ANSWER: FALSE

Reptiles like to bask in the morning sun to give them the energy they need to survive.