

Conserving the black grouse

Teachers notes

The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust is an independent wildlife conservation charity which carries out scientific research into Britain's game and wildlife. We advise farmers and landowners on improving wildlife habitats and we lobby for agricultural and conservation policies based on science. We employ 14 post-doctoral scientists and 50 other research staff with expertise in areas such as birds, insects, mammals, farming and statistics. We undertake our own research as well as projects funded by contract and grant-aid from Government and private bodies. The Trust is also responsible for a number of Government Biodiversity Action Plan species and is lead partner for grey partridge and joint lead partner for brown hare and black grouse. Our website offers a wide range of research and project material which can be downloaded for your convenience. Other species which we are currently studying include:

grey partridge	red grouse	black grouse	capercaillie	
brown trout	ptarmigan	mountain	hare	pheasant
songbirds	fox	red deer	mink	

A copy of the 'Conserving the Black Grouse' leaflet is included in this pack. Please contact Katrina Candy, Press/Education/Regional Officer, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust for more information, tel: (01828) 650779; email: kcandy@gwct.org.uk

Worksheet answers

1. Fox, stoat, crow, birds of prey.
2. 1999
3. heather, bilberry, buds, leaves, flowers, seeds stems, spore capsules of mosses, twigs of several trees. Chicks also eat insects. Refer to the black grouse nutrition section of the leaflet.
4. A network of tunnel traps.
5. 6%
6. 20 August – 10 December.
7. Loss of habitat mosaic, over-grazing, changes in forestry, increased mortality.
8. Greyhen.
9. A traditional display ground.
10. Mid-June.

Project pointers

1. Continue research into other game birds such as the red grouse or grey partridge.
The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust can also provide material for such a project.
2. Study other Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) species such as the Brown Hare.
The Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust has plenty of information on this species also.
3. Draw or create a model of a group of male black grouse (blackcock) displaying on their lek site.
You can include features of their habitat such as moorland, 'feathered' forest and wetlands.