

Who Am I? Teachers Notes

This activity links with the Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife principle of Leave No Trace

Habitat: A habitat is the natural environment in which a plant, animal or other organism lives. Habitats can be big (a whole forest) or small (a leaf or twig). Habitats provide species with everything necessary for survival; food, sunlight, water and shelter.

Common habitats found in Ireland include:

Coastal Habitats	Peatlands and Wetlands
Farms and Grasslands	Rivers and Lakes
Hedgerows	Towns, Gardens and Parks
Limestone Landscapes	Uplands and Mountains
Open Sea	Woodlands

This activity can also be carried out in an urban environment. Urban areas are not wildlife deserts and a wide range of plants and animals can be found in urban habitats such as:

Public green spaces	Bridges
Parks	Rivers
Old stone walls	Hedgerows
Graveyards	Canals
Gardens	Waste ground

Fionn Fact!

Ireland is home to a wide variety of wildlife:

- 25** land mammals
- 26** marine mammals
- 457** bird species
- 500 +** species of fish
- 11,000 +** species of insects
- 2,328** different plant species!

Fionn Fact! It is important to also consider farm animals when using the outdoors. Agriculture is one of Ireland's primary industries, almost 80% of all the land in Ireland is used for farming! When using Ireland's natural environment for sport and leisure we are often on, or very close to, farmland. It is important to be conscious of farm animals for their safety as well as ours. Whilst we are probably used to seeing farm animals, we should remember that they are not pets and we need to respect them as we would all wildlife.

Aoife's Tips

- Watch or photograph animals from a safe distance to avoid startling them or forcing them to flee
- Store food securely as human foods can be harmful to wildlife and can make some animals ill
- Dispose of rubbish properly as some animals can become seriously ill if they eat foil food wrappers and plastics

For more information on the Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife principle and the Other Leave No Trace principles visit:

www.leavenotraceireland.org

