

Meadows Play – Key Stage 2

A short class performance or assembly that teaches children about the importance of meadows, traditional management methods and why so many of these unique habitats have been lost in recent years

Parts required:

Narrator: x 1 (or 2)

Meadows x 5

Sheep x 1

Farmer x 1

Motorist x 1

Land Girls x 2

Scientist x 1

Surveyor x 1

Surveying children x 3

Other children that want to be involved can be animals that live in the meadows.

Meadows Play - Script

Narrator: Our story starts over a hundred years ago when Queen Victoria ☺ was still on the throne and the High Weald was full of hundreds and hundreds of wildflower meadows, but our story is just about 5 of them. Enter meadows children x 5 - wearing colourful t-shirt/holding meadows picture etc. These 5 children are present at all times.

Narrator: Once upon a time there were 5 wildflower meadows ☺ not so very far from here. These five meadows had been around for so many years that they were covered in plenty of flowers and lots of different types of grasses. Give us a twirl meadows not only did they look beautiful but they also provided food for lots of creatures big and small such as: put on food chain and masks Frog hoppers, Mayflies, Bumble bees, Hover flies, Butterflies, Moths, Ladybirds, Beetles, Bugs, Flies, Grasshoppers, Crickets, Damsel flies, Dragon flies, Rabbits, Hares, Slugs, Snails, Worms (Flick through photos on ppt).

Narrator: And these creatures were dinner for: Bats, Voles, Frogs, Toads, Moles, Song birds, Mice, slow worms, Grass snakes, Adders, Spiders

Narrator: And these creatures were dinner for creatures such as Weasels, Owls, Badgers, Kestrels, Sparrow Hawks at the very top of the food chain

They were very proud of themselves.

Narrator: Every year, for hundreds of years, at the end of Summer the farmer would harvest the meadow (farmer with hat act out scything) and store it to feed the animals in Winter. Then the animals would graze the meadows (sheep masks children 'graze' at meadow's feet) to help all the different flowers and grasses to grow next year. Farmer & sheep exit



Narrator: Time passed and it was 1941 and what was happening in the world? The second world war. The five meadows were enjoying the sunshine when two women came up to the first meadow (enter 2 'land girls' head scarves etc, imitating talking to each other, pointing at Meadow 1) they walked around it talking.

Land girl 1: We're going to plough you up and plant some oats.

Meadow 1: But I don't want to be ploughed up, what about all my lovely flowers and the animals that live here?

Land girl 2: There's a war on and we all have to make sacrifices. Ships can't get through with the food. We've got to grow it all ourselves.

Narrator 1: And so the first meadow was ploughed up and sown with oats 😊 1st meadow takes off t-shirt/meadow outfit and sits down, holding a bag of oats. The animals didn't like a field just of oats and they went to the other meadows

ALL: And then there were **four** wild flower meadows left

Narrator 2: Time moved on, about ten years, a mere minute to a meadow when the farmer and a scientist came to see the second meadow. (enter farmer & scientist white coat) The scientist and the farmer walked around the meadow the scientist took out a trowel and started to dig.

Scientist shaking head. 'This is no good. It's full of weeds. Take this fertiliser and it will give you a lovely field full of emerald green grass to feed more cows, and more cows means more milk, more meat and more money.' And he gave the farmer a bag of fertiliser. The farmer wasn't sure but the scientist said: This is progress and you can't stand in the way of progress.

First of all the meadow was pleased, she looked all shiny and fresh but the animals didn't like just one grass and they went to the other meadows. And the second meadow felt sad and lonely. Meadow 2 takes off meadow



outfit/t shirt, sits down covering knees with bright green cloth/plastic etc. Education Resource

ALL: And then there were **three** wildflower meadows left

Narrator 3: Time passed again and one day the three meadows were enjoying the sunshine although every now and then a car would pass by and the meadows would have to hold their noses because of all the smelly smoke. Then a person with a hard hat and a tape-measure, a map and lots of other things, came to see the third meadow ([enter child dressed as surveyor](#)) and started to measure it.

Surveyor: There are so many cars now that we're going to need new roads for them. So we thought we'd build a lovely new road straight through here.

Meadow 5: But I don't want a road, what about my flowers and grasses not to mention all the creatures that live here?

Surveyor: Never mind that. This is progress and you can't stand in the way of progress.

Narrator 1: And so the poor meadow disappeared completely under a layer of tarmac 😊. [Meadow 3 takes off meadow outfit/t-shirt, sits down holding road sign.](#)

ALL: And then there were **two** meadows left

Narrator: The animals did not like the new road and quickly moved to the other two meadows, but things began to get crowded so sometimes they had to make the dangerous journey, across the busy road, between the two meadows. [Show road kill](#)

Narrator: Time moved on and, one day the two meadows were enjoying the sunshine. Along came someone with a clipboard and walked around the fourth meadow. The meadow was feeling very nervous.



Surveyor: You've been chosen for a new housing estate, ~~Education going~~ to call it 'The Meadows' 😊

Meadow: But I don't want to be a housing estate! What about all my flowers, grasses and animals

Surveyor: Sorry, it's in my plan. This is progress and you can't stand in the way of progress. [Meadow 4 takes off meadow outfit/t-shirt holds house sign.](#)

Narrator 5: A few flowers remained on the road sides and at the bottoms of people's gardens but most of the animals moved to the last meadow on the other side of the road. But this meadow was now so crowded there wasn't enough food for them all, so some creatures had to leave.

Narrator 1: Time moved on and one day, the other day in fact, and the remaining meadow was NOT enjoying the sunshine. The meadow wasn't enjoying it because some people were walking around her with clipboards ([enter 3 children with clipboard, a meadow officer](#)). They were looking at her flowers and grasses and getting very excited.

Narrator 2: The meadow started to shake with fear ([Meadow 5 shakes](#)). But the people with the clipboard were children come to admire and find out how healthy she was. They gave their information to an organisation whose job it was to help save meadows.

Children: What's the matter? Why are you so scared?

Narrator: Can anyone tell me why this meadow is so scared and sad?
[Gets answers from the audience](#)

Meadow Officer: ([Laughing, and speaking to meadow 5](#)) Oh you've got it all wrong. We like your flowers. We want to help you. Do you realise how rare you are now and how important you are?

Meadow 5: But, I'm just a scruffy little meadow, even my soil isn't very good.



Education Resource

Meadow Officer: Rubbish who have you been listening to? Your soil is perfect for all these wonderful flowers and different grasses. If you improved your soil with fertiliser they couldn't grow. Now listen to me! **You are special and important and people are now beginning to realise just how important you are and are trying to protect you.**

ALL: Now that's progress!