



High Weald Hero Activity Card

Compass Fun



Equipment: Compasses, cameras/paper and pencils.

Location: This activity can be done wherever the children have adequate room to move about, but is most effective when completed outdoors with a good view!

Audience: KS 2

Time: 45 minutes

An opportunity to practise compass use and observe the surrounding environment

Activity Description: Before starting this activity, ensure that the children know the 8 points of the compass. Take the group to a suitable outdoor location - somewhere with views across the High Weald would be ideal. Explain that the children, in pairs, will need to use their compass in completing various tasks that you will give them. Start with the children finding and facing North (check understanding that the needle automatically points in this direction). What can they see from here? Children should take photos, note down observations or sketch what is visible. Once they have spent a few minutes facing North, they need to then work their way around the compass and repeat the observation tasks, facing each point in turn.

Encourage them to really look at what they see as they face a new direction. What is different? What is the same? Discuss with the children what they would see during a different season, or what might be seen in 100 years? What about if this activity had been done 100 or 1000 years ago? Make the point that a lot of the landscape would probably have been the same! The High Weald is essentially still a medieval landscape and much of it has remained unchanged for many years, something that makes this a very unique and special area.



Children could also be encouraged to look for particular things that are unique to the High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) e.g. irregular-shaped fields; scattered historic farmsteads; small ancient woodlands and shaws; sunken lanes; and rolling hills.

High Weald Teaching Point: The High Weald's rolling hills are draped with small, irregular fields - edged with ancient boundary features and often containing flower-rich grassland. The field pattern grew out of the way the High Weald was settled, as medieval farmers cleared the land by hand - this is why the High Weald's fields are relatively small and irregular in shape. At the edge of each field was the woodland itself, which is why so many fields have boundaries formed by strips or 'shaws' of old woodland. This process was largely complete by the 14th century, and the High Weald - with its irregular fields, small woods and heathy commons - looked much the same way as it does today.

