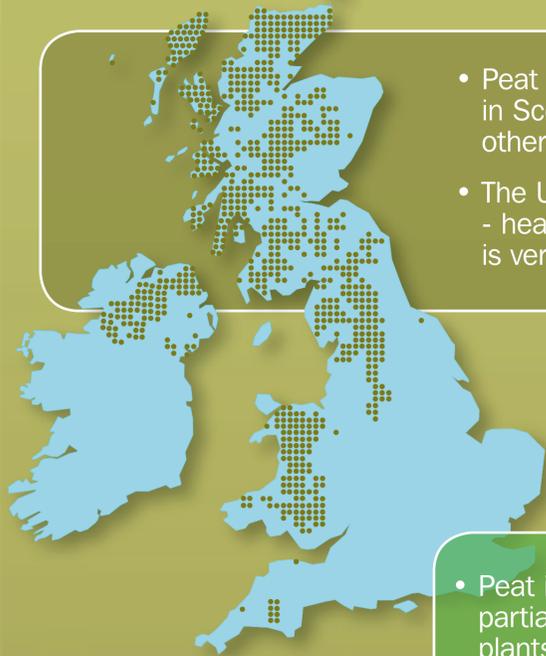


Peat bogs and why they matter



- Peat bogs are very important habitats. They are found in Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales and in many other places in the world.
- The UK contains about 15% of the world's peat bogs - healthy peat bogs absorb and stores carbon, and this is very important in helping to stop climate change.

• Peat is made up of partially decomposed plants, especially Sphagnum mosses. Sphagnum moss is an incredible sponge - it can hold 20 x its weight in water!



• In the UK many peat bogs have been badly damaged by drainage, overgrazing, burning and industrial pollution.

• Peat bogs also act as a giant sponges, soaking up and storing rainwater coming down from the surrounding hills - this helps to reduce flooding further down valleys and because the water is moving more slowly, soil erosion is also reduced.

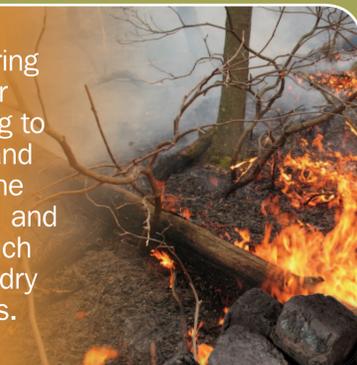


Global peat bogs and the effects of their destruction

- Tropical peatlands are found in Asia, Central America, South America and southern Africa.
- Tropical peat swamp forests are being damaged by land development, legal and illegal logging and fire; they may soon be destroyed forever. This loss will bring devastating environmental consequences in these countries and around the world.



• In Indonesia the clearing of peatlands for paper and palm oil is leading to huge environmental and social problems. As the peatlands are cleared and drained, the carbon-rich peat becomes tinder dry and vulnerable to fires.



• Peatland forests are logged for wood production and then the land is converted to commercial oil palm plantations.

These huge changes mean that the land is drained of water and there are massive CO₂ emissions.



The wonders of peat bogs



Plants, animals and habitats
Peat bogs are home to many ...



Explore the bogs - history, poetry, ideas & experiments

- If you go down to the bog today you might have all sorts of ideas and surprises.
- Bogs are also very important as they help understand the past - they are like history books showing so many things which happened years ago. Recently scientists have discovered human remains in bogs which are over 10,000 years old.



BOGS...
THEY MATTER
THEY HOLD OUR WATER
THEY HELP OUR CLIMATE
THEY ARE FULL OF MOSS
THEY HAVE WILDLIFE
THEY TELL HISTORY
THEY SMELL

Along with "Save the Forests!" we must also "Save the Peat Bogs!"