

FANTASTIC PEAT

**DISCOVER THE SOIL SUPERPOWER HELPING TO FIGHT THE
CLIMATE CRISIS!**

**FENS
EAST PEAT
PARTNERSHIP**

Wow!

**Peat acts as a filter,
making water
cleaner.**

PEAT – A CARBON CAPTURE SUPERPOWER!

What is Peat?

Peat is a special type of soil that is formed in marsh land. The lack of oxygen in the wet conditions slows down the decay of the dead plants which then turn into layers of peat.



Why is it Important?

Peatland plants act like a sponge, absorbing the carbon dioxide produced by burning coal and gas and keeping it locked underground. This helps to maintain the Earth's temperature, but they can only do this if they are not disturbed.



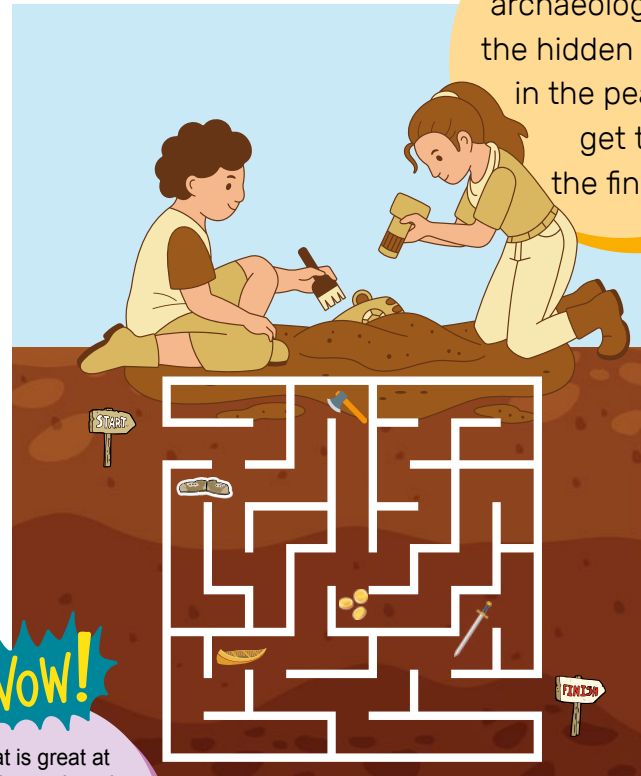
Can you find all ten words?

J Y Q X W H I S T O R Y H F F
 N K B I O D I V E R S I T Y I
 G N G L R G Q M T C W E J K T
 A A F F A V N U S O I L E N Z
 D T C A R B O N S T O R A G E
 Z U B W A T E R Q U A L I T Y
 F R T Y I I N W P Q W G G Q L
 E E E K L N O Q H D H S O A B
 N X K R J Y O B V P Z F S P U
 L H F T W Y I W S S B G D N S
 A U P R I F K G S P E A T U G
 N C L I M A T E C H A N G E Z
 D Y P I E N W I L D L I F E T
 X K R R V R K T Z X A L M V F
 W S I C V D J O I X V H K L C

- ☐ Carbon storage
- ☐ Biodiversity
- ☐ Peat
- ☐ Climate change
- ☐ Water Quality
- ☐ Soil
- ☐ Fenland
- ☐ History
- ☐ Wildlife
- ☐ Nature



Can you help the archaeologists find the hidden artefacts in the peat and get to the finish?

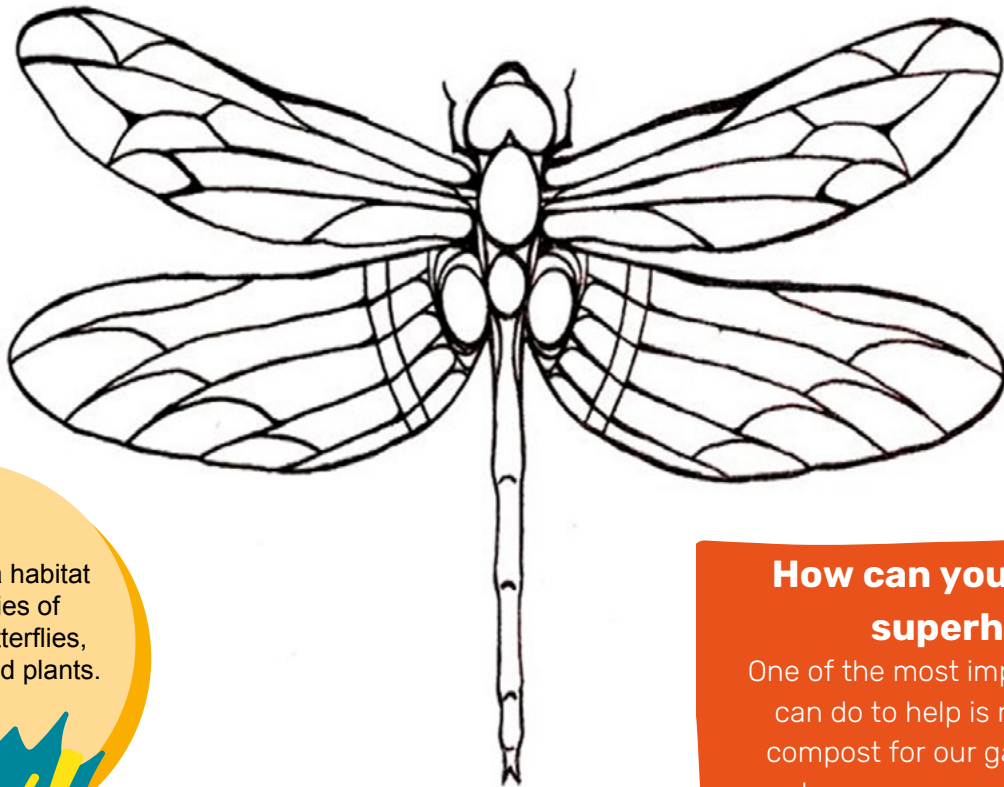


Wow!

Peat is great at preserving archaeology such as weapons and leather shoes used by people thousands of years ago

***Answers on back page**

Colouring Page



Peatlands are a habitat for rare species of dragonflies, butterflies, beetles, birds and plants.

Wow!

How can you be a peat superhero?

One of the most important things we can do to help is not buying peat compost for our gardens. Find out how you can make your own compost on page 6.

Peatland and bog wildlife



Sundew



Curlew



Sphagnum moss



Cotton grass



Bog bush-cricket



Butterwort



Hobby



Keeled skimmer



Bog myrtle



Snipe

How to make simple compost

You will need

- A compost bin, with a lid*
- A well-drained, easy to access area
- Green compostable ingredients
- Brown materials, like straw and scrunched-up paper
- A gardening fork



Compost worms are brilliant recyclers so put them to use on your green waste. The finished compost will enrich your garden soil, benefiting even more earthworms! This rich soil also boosts flowers, veggies and other plants.



- 1 Carefully make holes in the base of your bin if it doesn't have any. Then place it on or close to bare soil to let worms wiggle in.



- 2 Start putting stuff in... mix brown materials, like straw and paper, with nitrogen-rich ones like veggies and tea bags.



Check out the worms that have moved in!



- 3 Stick a fork in and turn over the contents of the bin (ideally once a month) to let more air in. The more you turn it, the quicker you make compost.

- 4 It can take from six months to two years, but when it's ready you'll find rich, dark, fabulous compost. Use it!



Don't worry if there are lumps, bumps and bits of eggshells.



tea leaves



raw fruit and veg peelings



grass cuttings



straw



scrunched newspaper



soft prunings & dead plants



coffee grounds



woody stems



cooked food scraps



cat or dog poo



meat or bones



weed seedheads



perennial weed roots



diseased plants

Plant a bog garden

You will need

- Upcycled old plastic garden trug (ensure sides aren't split)



- Gravel or pea shingle



- Garden soil



- Leaky hose with stopper in one end



- Drill



Suggested bog plants

- Common valerian
- Marsh bedstraw
- Purple loosestrife
- Marsh marigold
- Water avens
- Water forget-me-not



Bog gardens can help a huge range of wildlife. Not only can swallows and house martins use the mud to build their nests in the spring, mini bogs can also provide valuable habitat for creatures like frogs, toads and dragonflies! Bog gardens are excellent alternatives to a pond if you have very young children.

- 1 Drill holes in the bottom of your trug about 5cm apart.



- 2 Place a layer of gravel or pea shingle in the bottom.



- 3 Lay the stoppered end of your hose on top of the gravel or shingle, covering with another layer. Leave the other end of the hose poking out of the top of the trug and long enough to reach a garden hose connected to a water butt or similar.



- 4 Fill the trug to the brim with garden soil. Plant one or two bog plants to one side but leave the other side for bare mud.



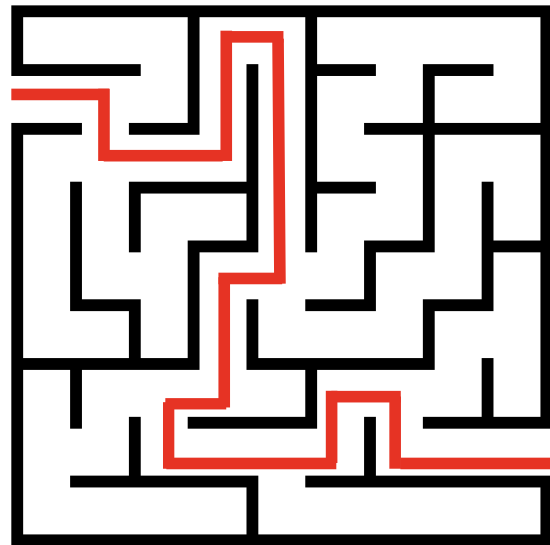
- 5 If soil feels dry, connect the leaky hose to a water butt to re-wet.



- 6 Dig a hole to sink your trug into the ground, so the top is level with the surrounding soil.



Answers



To find out more about peat visit:

www.lincstrust.org.uk/FEPP

www.iucn-uk-peatlandprogramme.org

The Fens East Peat Partnership is funded by a Peatland Discovery Grant awarded by Nature for Climate Peatland Grant Scheme and administered by Natural England working together to restore and preserve peatland in low-lying areas of Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

