

# New Forest Wilder for Water

## Freshwater Species Discovery Quiz

### Teachers Notes

## Background

The New Forest is exceptionally important for its freshwater wildlife. Many ponds, lakes, and headwater streams are in better condition than is usual for lowland Britain because a large part of the surrounding land is comprised of uncultivated habitats, free from pollution, which have been managed traditionally by grazing animals for 1000s of years. The number and rarity of freshwater species found in the New Forest makes it one of the most important freshwater landscapes in the UK.

The unique mixture of soils, climate, management history and clean water have also produced and maintained nationally important habitats like valley mires and temporary ponds. Habitats, which are largely unchanged since the last ice age. These habitats present some extreme conditions for the plants and animals that live there, and they have developed some smart adaptations to survive and thrive.

### AIMS OF THE ACTIVITY

- To learn about the special freshwater plants and animals found in the New Forest

### EQUIPMENT (c.5 CHILDREN PER GROUP)

- Species fact cards
- Species quiz sheets
- New Forest Wonderful Wetlands colouring sheet

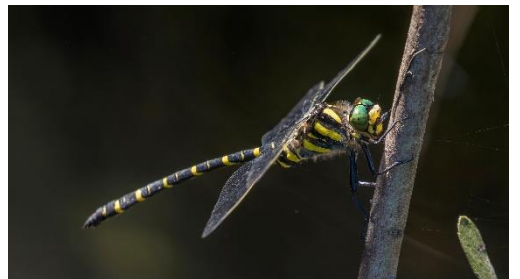
### WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO

Give each student a quiz sheet. Alternatively, you can display the quiz questions on the board and get the students to write their answers in an exercise book.

Share the species fact cards between the groups (we suggest you print out two copies of each card – 24 cards in total).

Give the students time to read through and find answers to the quiz questions. They can move around the room to find the information they need from the correct card. With this method, this activity can run inside or outside.

Once they've finished the quiz, they can use the species cards to inspire them to complete a New Forest Wonderful Wetlands colouring sheets.



*Some of the amazing New Forest species  
Top: sundew, Middle: tadpole shrimp,  
Bottom: golden-ringed dragonfly*

# Quiz

1. How many jaws does a medicinal leech have?
2. What has cottongrass been historically used for?
3. What do curlews eat?
4. What is another name the emerald damselfly is known by?
5. How long can golden-ringed dragonflies spend developing as a nymph in the water before emerging?
6. Give one adaptation sundews have to survive in very low nutrient habitat.
7. Why is gorse important for other species?
8. What three things do tadpole shrimp and fairy shrimp have in common?

# Answers



1. Medicinal leeches have 3 jaws
2. Cottongrass been historically used to stuff pillows and to dress wounds during WW1
3. Curlews eat worms and shellfish - using their beaks as a tweezer to pick them from mudflats
4. Emerald damselflies are also known as the common spread-wing
5. Golden-ringed dragonflies can spend as long as 5 years developing a nymph in the water before emerging. This is actually the longest of all the different UK dragonflies.
6. Sundews are adapted to get nutrients from insects
7. Gorse is important: (i) its spiky leaves gives protection to a range of birds and insects, and (ii) it has a long flowering period which gives insects a source of nectar when most other flowers are no longer in bloom.
8. Tadpole shrimp and fairy shrimp:
  - both live in temporary ponds fed by rainwater
  - they both need very low nutrient levels
  - they both have eggs that survive while the pond is dry
  - both their eggs hatch after rain
  - they both have shrimp in their common names

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