



Why are sand dunes important?

Time needed for activity 30 minutes

Location Indoors or outdoors

Context

This activity plan highlights the importance of sustainably managing our natural resources, focusing on sand dunes and the multiple benefits they provide.

Natural Resources Wales' purpose is to pursue sustainable management of natural resources in all of its work. This means looking after air, land, water, wildlife, plants, and soil to improve Wales' well-being, and provide a better future for everyone.

Curriculum for Wales

Humanities

- **What matters** - Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions.
- **What matters** - Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted, and represented in different ways.

Languages, Literacy and Communication

- **What matters** - Expressing ourselves through languages is key to communication.

Objectives

- Learners will be able to explain some of the reasons why sand dunes are important
- Learners will be able to describe which of the reasons they feel is most important
- Learners will be able to understand that sand dunes provide multiple benefits for people and the environment

Equipment and resources

- Resource cards - Why are sand dunes important?

What to do

The activity can be adapted and carried out in different ways (see options 1 and 2 below). It can also be used to introduce or consolidate learning on the topic of sand dunes, climate change and sustainability. Ask the group why sand dunes are important and discuss their ideas.

1. Independently or in small groups, hand out a set of the resource cards and ask learners to order the cards according to which they believe is the most important to the least important benefits that sand dunes provide. Discuss the outcomes.



2. Working in groups, give each learner one resource card. The aim is for the group to arrange themselves so that they stand in order of the most important to the least important benefits that sand dunes provide. Using their card as background, everyone should take a turn in explaining to the others where they should stand in order of importance.

Plenary

Explain that there are no right or wrong answers. The purpose of the activity is to encourage discussion and for the students to learn that sand dunes can provide multiple benefits for people and the environment.

Suggested key questions

- What do you think is the most important benefit of sand dunes?
- How can we increase the number and size of sand dune systems in Wales?

Adapting for different needs/abilities

More support

- Remove some of the cards from the set.
- Complete the activity as a whole group.

More Challenge

- Investigate if there are other benefits that sand dunes provide and add to the card set.

Follow up activity/extension

- Create charts and graphs to illustrate how they sorted the cards e.g. a human bar chart. Lay the cards on the ground and ask the children to stand in front of their chosen card in straight lines to make the 'bars'.
- Use natural art to illustrate a way in which sand dunes are important.

Looking for more learning resources, information and data?

Please contact: education@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk or go to <https://naturalresources.wales/learning>

Alternative format; large print or another language, please contact:
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