



Activity Guide: Green Getaway

Key messages:

1. There are over 9 million day visits to the NYMNP every year.
2. Every one of these visits makes an impact on the National Park environment, local residents, local economy and other visitors.
3. An impact can be large, small, positive or negative.
4. People can influence the type of impact they make when visiting the NYMNP by thinking about the choices available to them.
5. Sustainable tourism means managing visitors and encouraging people to use and enjoy the Park now, but without damaging it, so that we can pass it on, protected and enhanced, to the next generation.

Scenario:

A family with teenage children wants to spend a weekend in the North York Moors National Park. The family lives in a town not far away (e.g. York, Middlesbrough, or Scarborough).

To plan their weekend the family needs to think about four things:

- Transport
- Accommodation
- Food
- Recreation

For each of these aspects of the weekend they have several choices. You are going to discuss the choices for each of the four aspects of the weekend and then suggest:

1. Which choice satisfies the needs of the family best i.e. most convenient and enjoyable;
2. Which choice is the most sustainable?
3. What is the best compromise, can they suggest one thing that the family could do to make their weekend more sustainable?

Choices:

Use the colour coded cards to present the choices for each are the family has to think about. Or you could use props, asking pupils to guess what each prop represents.

Transport Choices:

Car, bus, train, bicycle, walk

Props: bicycle bell or helmet, car park ticket or L plates, train driver's whistle, bus timetable, walking boots.

Accommodation Choices:

Hotel, B&B, stay in a caravan on a campsite, camp wild in a tent, self catering cottage.

Props: tent pegs, towel with hotel logo, book of caravan sites, B&B breakfast choice card

NATIONAL PARKS

Britain's breathing spaces

Food Choices:

Eat in local cafes and pubs, buy food from local shops, bring a bag of food from home that you have bought at a supermarket, catch fish and gather nuts and berries.

Props: Packed lunch box, hotel menu or serviette with logo, pub menu, fishing net / field guide to hedgerow plants.

Recreation Choices:

Hire a bike and go cycling, go walking, visit a tourist attraction such as a castle or a museum, go off road driving in your Landover, drive around sightseeing.

Props: map and compass, flat cap and camera, shopping bag, crash helmet, souvenir guide to a heritage attraction etc.

Structuring the Activity:

A set of cards and / or a box of props are provided for each of the four aspects of the weekend (transport, accommodation, food and recreation). The cards / props give various choices for each aspect of the weekend.

Either

1. Discuss the choices together as one class. You will need to facilitate the discussion and ensure all pupils have an opportunity to contribute. Fill in comments on a flip chart as you go.
2. Divide the class into several small groups and give each group one aspect of the weekend to discuss. Allow the group's time to come up with ideas and then ask them to present their ideas to the rest of the class and fill in their comments on the flip chart.

On the flip chart draw a table like this and complete only the first two columns initially:

	Most convenient / enjoyable choice	Most sustainable choice	Compromises / realistic way to be more sustainable
Transport			
Accommodation			
Food and drink			
Recreation			

Give each pupil a worksheet to record their comments and ideas and so they have something to take away with them that summarises the session.

The discussions will probably demonstrate that the most convenient / enjoyable / cheapest options are not always sustainable and that the most sustainable options may not always be practical or affordable and therefore some compromise is generally required for sustainable tourism to be realistic.

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The group should then decide, for each aspect of the weekend, what is the best compromise.

Can they suggest one thing that the family could do to make their weekend more sustainable?

E.g. for transport - it might be not be possible for the family to travel around using public transport for the whole weekend – but if they chose to use a bus for even one journey, it would make a difference, it would reduce traffic congestion, the bus fare would help the local economy and if everyone did this, it would save thousands of car miles!

Fill these suggestions for compromise in on the flip chart in the third column.

Summary:

The landscapes and habitats of the North York Moors National Park are very important to wildlife and people. The National Park is for the nation to use and enjoy, but if we don't use it in a sustainable way, it will be damaged and spoilt.

Do we want that to happen while we're in charge?

Everyone can help to conserve and enhance the National Park by making choices that will benefit the environment, local people and the local economy, even in small ways. This is sustainable tourism, remember that every little helps!