



Scottish
Wildlife
Trust

Words of the



Session plans

Words of the Wild Session Plans

January 2025



Thank you for your interest in our Words of the Wild session plans which aim to encourage young people to explore Scotland's wildlife and wild places through literature.

We've put together everything you need to easily involve your students or group members and by taking part, you'll be in with a chance of winning great prizes for your school/group:

- A £200 voucher for [NHBS](#) which stocks a wide range of wildlife watching and surveying equipment
- A 1-yr subscription to [British Wildlife](#) magazine

Teaching resources and how to enter

We've designed three session plans with accompanying resources for your class or group to take part in. Each session is an hour long and can be customised to suit the young people you work with.

The three sessions have different aims:

- Nature drawing
- Creative writing
- Literary analysis and debate

Please choose the session which resonates with you the most. In the session, your class or group will engage with samples of Scottish nature writing, and vote on which one they find the most inspiring.

To enter the prize draw, tell us which quote your class or group found the most inspiring by 28 February 2025 [on the Scottish Wildlife Trust's website](#). Prizes will be distributed in March 2025.

Session plan: Nature drawing



Please [download the powerpoint here](#) – we have populated it with three quotes but please feel free to amend with other quotes from: [Words of the Wild Nature Quotes](#).

Learning intentions:

- Think about wildlife and wild places in Scotland.
- Engage in creative activities to reflect on Scotland’s natural heritage.

Curriculum for Excellence links:

- Literacy and English: 'I can respond to texts by sharing my thoughts and feelings and considering others' views.'
- Social Studies: 'I can explore my local environment and its natural features.'
- Health and Wellbeing: 'Through contributing my views and choices, I can show how wildlife impacts on our sense of place in Scotland.'

Session plan:

1. Introduction (10 minutes – slides 1-3):
 - Encourage your students to describe what they think about when they hear the words “wild” and “Scotland”. Discuss some of the key elements of Scotland’s wildlife and wild places - animals such as red squirrels, golden eagles and basking sharks, and wild landscapes like the rugged west coast and the mountain plateau of the Cairngorms.
2. Choosing a quote (15 minutes – slides 4-7):
 - Share a few quotes from Scottish nature writers (adjust for readability and age-appropriate language).
 - Discuss with the class which quote is their favourite, what it makes them think of and how it makes them feel.
3. Nature drawing (20 minutes – slide 8):
 - Each child draws a picture inspired by their chosen quote, thinking about the Scottish animals or places mentioned.
4. Sharing and reflecting (10 minutes):
 - In pairs, children share their drawing and explain how it connects to their chosen quote.
 - Encourage them to think about how Scotland’s wildlife is part of their identity.
5. Wrap up and submission (5 minutes – slide 9):
 - Explain that there is a prize draw and to enter the class needs to agree on a favourite quote.
 - Submit your chosen quote on [the Scottish Wildlife Trust’s website](#). We’ll let you know if your school or group has won in March 2025.

We’d love to see what your students created! Teachers or youth workers can tag the Scottish Wildlife Trust on social media or share work using #WordsoftheWild.

Session plan: Creative writing



Please [download the powerpoint here](#) – we have populated it with three quotes but please feel free to amend with other quotes from: [Words of the Wild Nature Quotes](#).

Learning intentions:

- Explore Scottish literature and wildlife through meaningful quotes.
- Develop skills in literary analysis and creative writing.
- Enhance understanding of Scotland’s biodiversity and landscapes.
- Encourage personal reflection on Scotland’s natural heritage and identity.

Curriculum for Excellence links:

- Literacy and English: 'I can discuss the writer's style and other features appropriate to genre, including use of language, sentence structure, and narrative.'
- Social Studies: 'I can use my knowledge of the interactions in an ecosystem to explain the effects of biodiversity loss.'
- Health and Wellbeing: 'Through contributing my views, I can explore what impacts on life experiences and mental wellbeing in different Scottish communities.'

Session plan:

1. Introduction (10 minutes – slides 1-3):
 - Encourage your students to describe what they think about when they hear the words “wild” and “Scotland”. Discuss some of the key elements of Scotland’s wildlife and wild places - animals such as red squirrels, golden eagles and basking sharks, and wild landscapes like the rugged west coast and the mountain plateau of the Cairngorms.
2. Literary analysis (15 minutes – slides 4-7):
 - Share a few quotes from Scottish nature writers (adjust for readability and age-appropriate language).
 - Discuss with the class which quote is their favourite, what it makes them think of and how it makes them feel.
3. Creative writing (25 minutes – slides 8-9):
 - Students write a short piece inspired by their chosen quote. They could focus on how the quote connects to Scotland’s natural heritage and their own experiences.
4. Wrap up and submission (10 minutes – slide 10):
 - The class/group votes on which quote they found the most inspiring.
 - Submit your chosen quote on [the Scottish Wildlife Trust website](#). We’ll let you know if your school or group has won in March 2025.

We’d love to see what you wrote! Teachers or youth workers can tag the Scottish Wildlife Trust on social media or share work using #WordsoftheWild.

Session plan: Debating and literary analysis



Please [download the powerpoint here](#) – we have populated it with three quotes but please feel free to amend with other quotes from: [Words of the Wild Nature Quotes](#).

Learning intentions:

- Explore Scottish literature and wildlife through meaningful quotes.
- Create a coherent line of argument and communicate clearly.
- Enhance understanding of Scotland’s biodiversity and landscapes.
- Encourage personal reflection on Scotland’s natural heritage and identity.

Curriculum for Excellence links:

- Literacy and English: 'I can discuss the writer's style and other features appropriate to genre, including use of language, sentence structure, and narrative.'
- Social Studies: 'I can use my knowledge of the interactions in an ecosystem to explain the effects of biodiversity loss.'
- Health and Wellbeing: 'Through contributing my views, I can explore what impacts on life experiences and mental wellbeing in different Scottish communities.'
- Critical Thinking: Developing the ability to analyse, reason, and present coherent arguments aligns well with debating skills.

Session Plan:

1. Introduction (10 minutes – slides 1-3):
 - Encourage your students to describe what they think about when they hear the words “wild” and “Scotland”. Discuss some of the key elements of Scotland’s wildlife and wild places - animals such as red squirrels, golden eagles and basking sharks, and wild landscapes like the rugged west coast and the mountain plateau of the Cairngorms.
2. Literary analysis (20 minutes – slides 4-8):
 - Share a few quotes from Scottish nature writers (adjust for readability and age-appropriate language).
 - Each student analyses their chosen quote in small groups, focusing on:
 - Language features (e.g., metaphors, symbolism).
 - Themes of nature, identity, or heritage.
3. Debating (20 minutes – slide 9):
 - Students will be assigned a quote to represent. In groups, they must argue why they think their quote is the most inspiring/evocative/best written.
4. Wrap up and submission (10 minutes – slide 10):
 - The class/group votes on which quote they found the most inspiring.
 - Submit your chosen quote on [the Scottish Wildlife Trust’s website](#). We’ll let you know if your school or group has won in March 2025.

The [Scottish Wildlife Trust](#) is a Scottish registered charity (charity number SC005792).

It is also a company limited by guarantee and registered in Scotland (registered number SC040247).

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