

LESSON PLAN

The Caterans

AIM:

Through learning a little about the Caterans, we can:

Become better informed about the old ways of life of people living in Perthshire Glens.
Spend time using maps and brochures to become better informed about the landscape around us.
Think and prepare ourselves for a challenging walk.
Get out into this environment and walk, enjoying what it has to offer and completing a challenge.

ACTIVITIES:

Cateran Worksheet

Colour and label the image of a Cateran.

Reading and understanding the brochure

Gather a Cateran Trail brochure for every two or three children and set them the task of answering the worksheet questions using the brochure.

Read stories from Stuart McHardy's book, The School of the Moon:
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/School-Moon-Highland-Cattle-Raiding-Tradition/dp/1841583006>

Prepare to walk a section of the Trail

Decide on a section to walk.

If, as a class, you've done walks before, great. If not, it may be a good idea to head out for a shortish walk from the school to give pupils the chance to think a bit about how best to prepare for a longer walk. (*wellies? Aye, or nae? Bags? What sort? How big?)

In pairs, write a list of clothes and kit required for a long walk. Discuss what it is you are preparing for.

In small groups, look at the O.S. map of the section you plan to walk. Try to use a 1:25000 map so you get lots of detail. Ask the groups to complete the walk worksheet (or similar) encouraging them to think about the ground, the available shelter and things to look out for as they walk.

Then walk!

Lots of children in the class will be accustomed to going for walks, and others not so much. There will almost certainly be parents who are keen to join in and if there are not, get in touch with a local walking group in advance of the trip. It is very likely there will be local people who know the land well and would like very much to assist walking with a class.

If this is not something you have done much of, there are a number of things worth thinking about when planning the walk. Talking this through with someone who has had experience is the best idea.

Use your imagination to draw a Cateran shelter.

The Caterans would have travelled, with cattle, for long chunks of time. How would they shelter? Thinking of the environment you walked through, choose a spot you remember and draw the shelter you imagine the Caterans might have created for themselves. Include a list of the resources they might have used.