

The North of England

Task 1: INTRODUCTION

Talk to your partner and discuss the following questions:

1. Do you prefer the city or the countryside? Why?
2. What are some areas of natural beauty in your country?
3. Do you know the name of the highest point in your country?



Task 2: READING

What is the Lake District? Read and find out.

The Lake District is a mountainous region in North West England. A popular holiday destination, it is famous for its lakes, forests and mountains, and its associations with William Wordsworth and other Lake Poets and also with Beatrix Potter and John Ruskin. The National Park was established in 1951 and covers an area of 2,362 square kilometres. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2017.

The Lake District is located entirely within the county of Cumbria. All the land in England higher than 3,000 feet (914 m) above sea level lies within the National Park, including Scafell Pike, the highest mountain in England. It also contains the deepest and largest natural lakes in England, Wast Water and Windermere respectively.

The Lake District is home to a great variety of wildlife, due to its range of varied landscapes, lakes and forests. It provides a home for the red squirrel and colonies of sundew and butterwort, two of the few carnivorous plants native to Britain. The Lake District is a major sanctuary for the red squirrel and has the largest population in England (out of the estimated 140,000 red squirrels in the United Kingdom, compared with about 2.5 million grey squirrels).

Farming, and in particular sheep farming, has been the major industry in the region since Roman times. The breed most closely associated with the area is the tough Herdwick, with Rough Fell and Swaledale sheep also common. Sheep farming remains important both for the economy of the region and for preserving the landscape which visitors want to see. Features such as dry stone walls, for example, are there as a result of sheep farming. Some land is also used for dairy farming.

The view from Scafell Pike



Now read the text again and decide if the following sentences are true or false

1. Not many people go on holiday to the Lake District.
2. The highest mountain in England is called Scafell Pike.
3. The Lake District is home to species which are rare in the rest of England.
4. Sheep farming is a recent trend in Cumbria.
5. Sheep farming helps to preserve the landscape.

Task 3: VOCABULARY

Find words in the text with the following meanings:

DEFINITION	WORD
Containing mountains	
Meaning "in that order"	
Lots of different types of something	
The way the land appears	
Meaning "something that eats meat"	
A safe place for something in danger	

Write one sentence using each word. Say the sentence to your partner with the target word blanked out. Can they guess the missing word?

Task 4: SPEAKING

Discuss the following questions with a partner:

Are there any plants or animals which are found only in your country?

What threats are faced by wildlife in your part of the world? What can be done to help?

Do you think it is important to protect areas of natural beauty from being built upon?

BRITAIN IN 10 PICTURES

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Teachers' Notes

This activity has been designed for pre-intermediate, intermediate and upper-intermediate students to be used before the event as an introduction and a way of getting students interested in the subject.

You may follow up the exercises with a class debate or series of speeches/presentations followed by question and answer sessions or further research into the relevant topics.

Answers are as follows:

Task 2

1. false
2. true
3. true
4. false
5. true

Task 3

DEFINITION	WORD
Containing mountains	Mountainous
Meaning "in that order"	Respectively
Lots of different types of something	A great variety
The way the land appears	A landscape
Meaning "something that eats meat"	Carnivorous
A safe place for something in danger	A sanctuary