



HEDGEROW BADGE

Contents:

- Background to badge – a leaders' resource giving you the information you will need to present the badge to the girls
- List of what the girls have to do
- Activity sheets where needed



To earn this badge, you must do three of the following activities for **part A**:

Activity 1 Learn about the plants to be found in a nature friendly hedgerow by completing the activity sheet (at end of this pack)

Activity 2 Find out more about one of the species which benefits from the hedgerow such as the dormouse. Either make an information sheet about it or tell the rest of your unit what you have found out.

Activity 3 Play the game – a safe place. Make a line down one side of the toom either with chalk or a tape with space behind it. This is the hedgerow. Optional: the girls can choose an animal to be such as a dormouse, rabbit, mouse etc. Choose the 'crow' who has to try to catch the little animals. The crow chases the animals but they can escape into the hedge and use it to run along before entering the chase area again. You could have more than one crow depending on your numbers. Any animals caught have to stand out. Change crow after a little while when all the animals can join in again.

Activity 4 Watch the video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_do-gVRA2I This was produced by Surrey Wildlife Trust as part of the Hedgerow Heritage Project. After this, answer the question 'Why are hedgerows which go from field to field important for the animals not just because they give them a home?'

Activity 5 The structure of a hedgerow using the sheet provided (at end of this pack)



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Part B:

Do one of the following:

- Join in with a hedge planting session. Contact Christa Emmett christa4surreyhills@gmail.com for details of opportunities to do this.
- Adopt a hedge near your meeting place and make sure it is clear of litter which could be dangerous to small animals.
- Plant a tree near where you meet.
- Look at a hedge and see what plants it has and see if you can find any signs that animals use it as a home such as a mouse.



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LEADERS' RESOURCE PAGES

The information below is intended to give you all the information you will need to introduce this badge to your girls. There are some links at the end which would allow you to find out more if you want to.

What are hedgerows?

Hedgerows are made up a line of woody trees that have usually been managed to form dense, bushy structures which criss-cross the landscape. They are known as 'semi-natural' habitats meaning they are usually managed but are also teeming with wildlife. Hedgerows can be found in rural or urban areas and can be made up of one or multiple species. They can be newly planted or ancient (meaning they are very old) and may vary in their size and shape, depending how they have been managed.

Why are hedgerows important?

Hedgerows, are incredibly important habitats for a diverse range of wildlife, including birds, insects, amphibians, and mammals.

Hedgerows which contain lots of different plants, or multiple species are generally better for wildlife as they provide a range of food sources all year round. Berries and nuts are fed on by birds and mammals, where as blossom flowers in the spring support a whole host of insects, which in turn are fed on by predators.

Hedgerows are also a great source of shelter, and a lot of species are dependent on them for their nesting sites. Thick, bushy, and spiky plants provide protection from predators and the elements and the banks and ditches that are often associated with hedgerows provide the perfect nesting and foraging sites for species such as hedgehogs, harvest mice and yellowhammers.

Hedgerows are also incredibly important for connectivity through the landscape, connecting areas of woodland and good-quality habitat. This is particularly important for species such as dormice, who are arboreal (meaning they spend all their time in trees, and they don't like to touch the ground). Hedgerows are also used by bat species to navigate to different feeding sites from their roosts.

A variety of height within a hedgerow is also very good for wildlife. For example, taller trees (such as oak) that rise above the average height of the hedge provide song-posts for birds, as well as look-out posts for birds of prey and owls. They also support a wide variety of insects which in turn supports other species living in and around the hedge.



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Finally, hedgerows are very important to combat climate change. Like trees, hedgerows can help to remove carbon from the air, storing it in their leaves, roots, and soil. They can also filter harmful air pollutants in urban areas, reduce flooding, and stop harmful chemicals from running into rivers and streams.

They really are incredible habitats, and we hope that your Guides will enjoy learning about their importance.

To summarise:

- Shelter
- Year-round food
- Corridors/Connectivity
- Natural boundaries
- Carbon sink
- Pollution and run-off absorbers
- Navigation

Resources:

RSPB - <https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/conservation-and-sustainability/advice/conservation-land-management-advice/farm-hedges/the-value-of-hedgerows-for-wildlife/#:~:text=Hedgerows%20provide%20food%20and%20shelter,along%20which%20wildlife%20can%20travel.>

Woodland Trust - <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/habitats/hedgerows/>

People's Trust for Endangered Species - <https://ptes.org/hedgerow/hedgerow-wildlife/#:~:text=Hedgerows%20provide%20a%20physical%20home,and%20butterflies%2C%20live%20in%20hedgerows.>

Wildlife Trust - <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife/managing-land-wildlife/how-manage-hedgerow-wildlife>

Hedge Link - <https://hedgeline.org.uk/hedge-news/>

Social media accounts to follow for older guides/rangers

@hedgerow_heritage








Campaigns –

CPRE, the countryside charity, is campaigning to plant and restore hedgerow networks up and down the country as part of its #40by50 campaign.

<https://takeaction.cpre.org.uk/page/85848/petition/1?ea.tracking.id=cpre-web>



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	Blackthorn	
	Dog rose	
	Field maple	
	Hazel	
	Bramble	
	Hawthorn	
	Spindle	
		

Either draw a line from each name to the picture of that plant you find in the hedgerow, or you can write their names in the space below. You could also tick the ones you have actually seen.



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Activity 5: The Structure of a hedgerow

Can you label each of these structures on the photograph of this hedgerow

1. Hedgerow Base
2. Hedgerow Margin
3. Shrub Layer
4. Hedgerow Tree



For older guides

Can you write a little bit about each of the components of the hedge?

OR

Can you match the definitions with the different components of a hedge? (currently matched to correct definition)



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Hedge Margin	An area of grass and herbs which can be found next to the hedge. This is very important for insects which feed on the grasses and herbs and in turn are fed on by predators such as hedgehogs and birds.
Hedgerow Base	Vegetation that can be found at the bottom of the hedge. This is important for shelter and for species that nest in hedgerows. Hedgerows with a thick hedgerow base are healthier and better for wildlife.
Shrub Layer	The main structural component of a hedge. Made up of woody tree species. Hedgerows that contain lots of different species in this layer are better for wildlife as they help to provide food sources all year round.
Hedgerow Tree	Larger species that stick out above the average height of the hedge. These are used as song-posts and territory markers and some species can support over 400 insect species.



HEDGEROW BADGE

How to order your badges

Badges are £1 each and available online

Leithhilldivisiondepot@gmail.com

Payment via BACS just drop us a message and we will sort that for you.

