

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Carbon Capture | Home Activity Worksheet

### Peatland Protection



Learning Lab®

**Read this short story about a day in the life of a Peatland Restoration Officer, Suzy. Answer the questions that follow.**

I get up in the morning and I'm glad to see it's a beautiful sunny day. After loading up the car with the equipment I'll need, I drive towards today's site. The conditions are perfect for my walk through forests and fields, which is great because it takes me about an hour to get to the site.

Eventually I get to the spot of peatland that I'm interested in. This area of land has been damaged because of overgrazing by sheep. It's my job to collect evidence of the damage so that I know what work is needed to reverse it as much as possible.

To make sure I'm surveying the right place, I have my GPS tracker with me. I've also got my camera, so I can take lots of pictures of the site. I use an instrument called a peat probe, which helps me find out how deep the peat goes. It's a long stick with a handle like a shovel that I can push down into the peat. The peat probe tells me that this peat is two and a half metres deep, which means the peat has been collecting for about 2,500 years!

Once I'm done with the survey, I make my way back to the car. I head home to have some lunch and get started with more work in the afternoon.

I need to make sure that the site is properly mapped, and decide what sort of treatment it needs to be restored. There's some paperwork to be done to make sure the health and safety of the restoration has been considered, plus I need to source people to do the work. The restoration won't start until September, when the bird breeding season is over.

I decide that for this site, the restoration will involve planting moss on top of exposed peat. This makes sure the peat isn't easily washed away by rain or wind. We'll also fill in any ditches around it, which stops water draining away quickly.

All of this work aims to keep the peat soil in place, and keep it full of water, which is needed for new peat to be made. If we keep protecting natural places, like peatlands, we can avoid even more carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere.



1. Suzy spends some of her day outside and some of her day inside. Do you think you would enjoy this type of job and why?

2. What skills do you think are needed for a job like this?

3. What would happen if the peatlands are **not** restored?

4. Do you think there is anything other than overgrazing sheep that would damage the peatlands?



5. Why is it important that the restoration work is not carried out until September?

6. What work will be carried out to restore the peatlands?