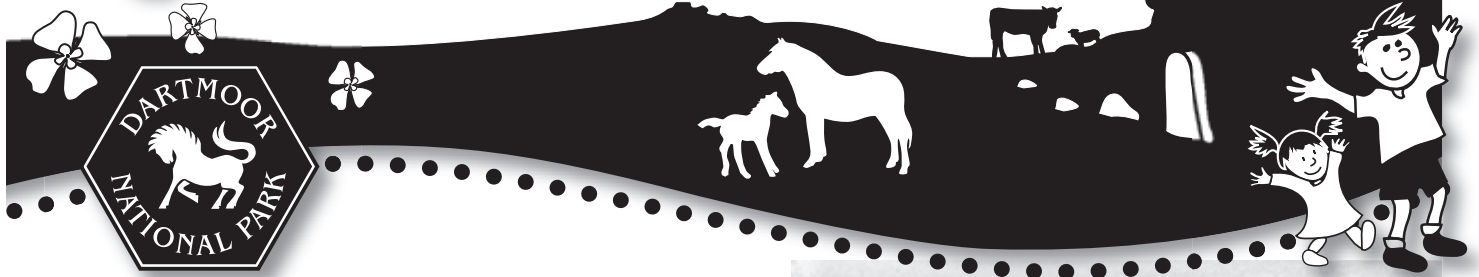


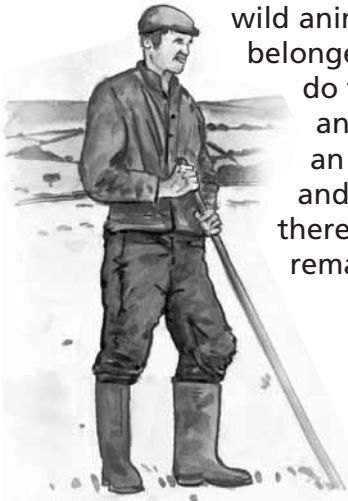


Introducing the Nature of Dartmoor



How the moorland is looked after

The sheep, the cows and the ponies have created the moorland that we see today. They have been eating grass (grazing) the moor for thousands of years. They are not wild animals. They have always belonged to farmers as they still do today. The sheep, cows and ponies (LIVESTOCK) are an essential part of the moor and we need to keep them there if we want Dartmoor to remain as moorland.



the cows and sheep produce meat for the farmers to feed us



Swaling/Burning

During dry spells in the winter the farmers try to burn away some of the older tougher plants on the moor. Careful burning in small areas clears away old growth and encourages fresh new plant shoots to grow. The big animals like to graze areas that have been recently burnt. Some areas may get burnt once every ten years.

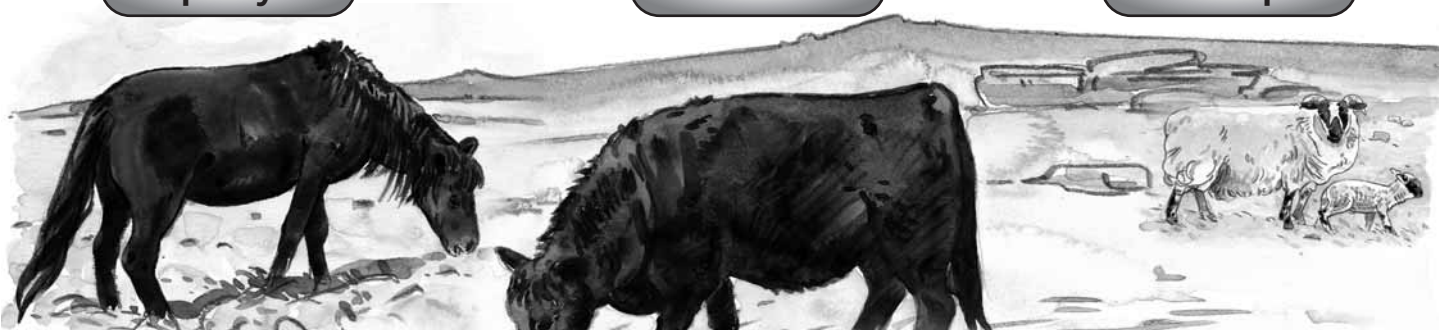
farmer

The Big Beasts of Dartmoor

pony

cow

sheep



the animals eat/graze the plants (mainly grass)

Common Moorland Plants

the animals enrich the soil with their manure and this helps plants to grow

heather

bracken

gorse

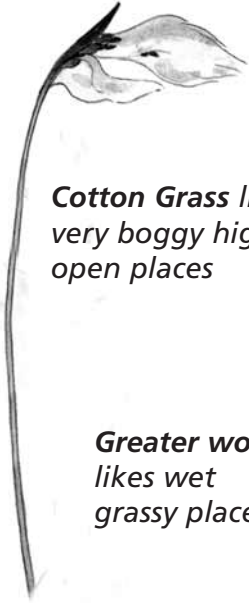
grass



Introducing plants on Dartmoor

Plants grow well in places where the conditions are best for them. All animals depend on plants for food in some way.

Grasses



Cotton Grass likes very boggy high open places



Greater woodrush likes wet grassy places



Hawthorn is a very tough thorny tree and useful in hedges

Oak can grow very old and grows very slowly on the moor, it only grows on sheltered steep slopes or among granite boulders to be out of reach of the grazing animals, who love to eat it

Trees



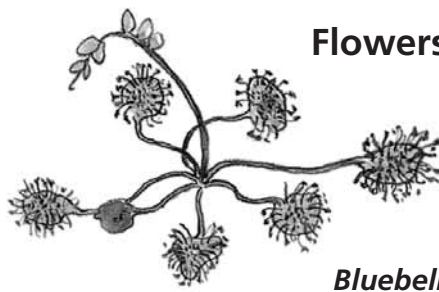
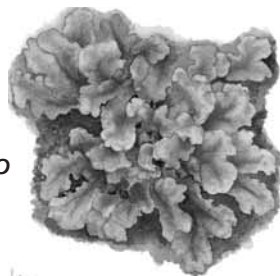
Rowan trees can survive the worst conditions - cold windy and wet weather, and poor soils



Poly-pody fern likes to grow in shady places on trees or rocks

Ferns and Liverwort

Liverwort grows on river and stream banks



Sundew grows in wet mossy places and traps and eats insects

Purple Moor Grass likes high open places



Flowers



Bluebells like hillsides that are covered by trees or bracken



Stonecrop can store water in its leaves; it likes rocks and walls

Tormentil likes open areas that are grazed

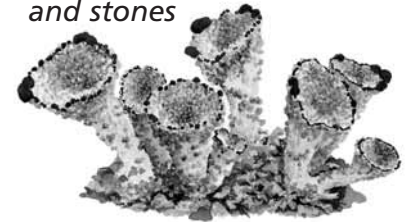


Lousewort lives in between grasses



Mosses and Lichens

Cladonia (Devil's Matches) likes to grow on rocks and stones

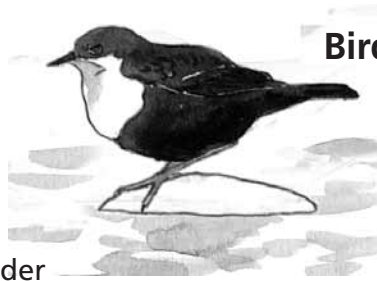


Sphagnum moss likes flatter, wetter places and makes them even wetter by soaking up rain water

Introducing the wild animals of Dartmoor

These are some of the typical wild animals found on the higher parts of Dartmoor. Some animals eat plants while others hunt and eat other smaller animals. Some can wander far and wide across the moor. Others like to stay close to their food and keep as safe as possible.

Birds



Dippers dive into rivers to feed off underwater insects

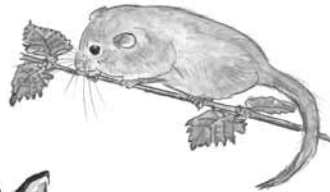


Buzzards like gliding high up looking for worms, beetles or rabbits to eat

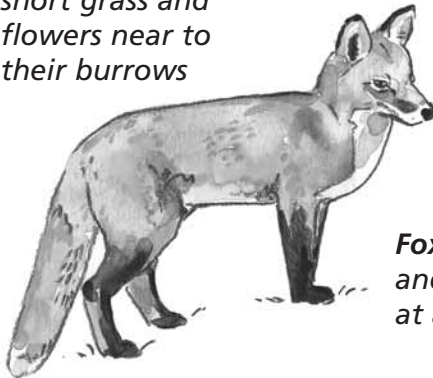
Furry animals



Rabbits like grazing short grass and flowers near to their burrows



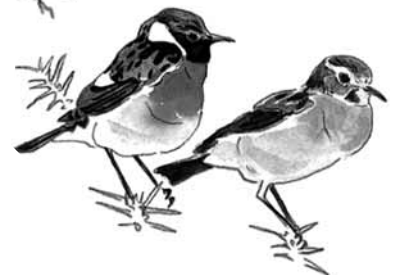
Dormice specialise in woodlands and only come out at night and like to sleep a lot



Foxes like to roam and hunt anywhere at any time



Wheatears nest on the ground and like to perch on rocks



Stonechats like sitting on gorse bushes making loud "chat" noises

Mini beasts of Dartmoor

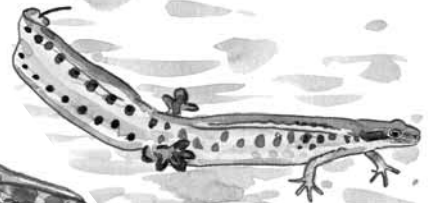


High Brown Fritillary butterflies are very rare and their caterpillars feed on violets that grow under bracken



Common lizards scuttle away quickly to hide in the heather

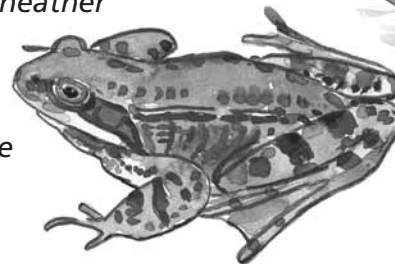
Cold blooded creatures



Newts need to live near to a pond to breed

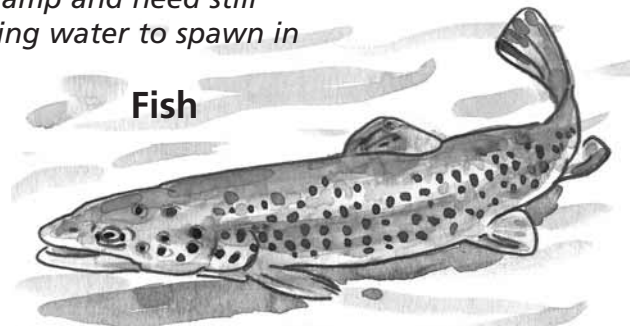


Golden-ringed dragonflies' larvae live for years in muddy, peaty puddles



Common frogs need to stay damp and need still standing water to spawn in

Fish

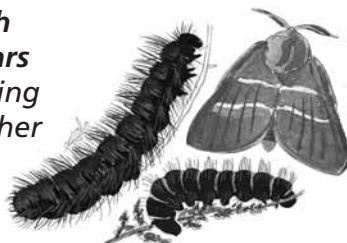


Trout need clean fast flowing streams or rivers to live in

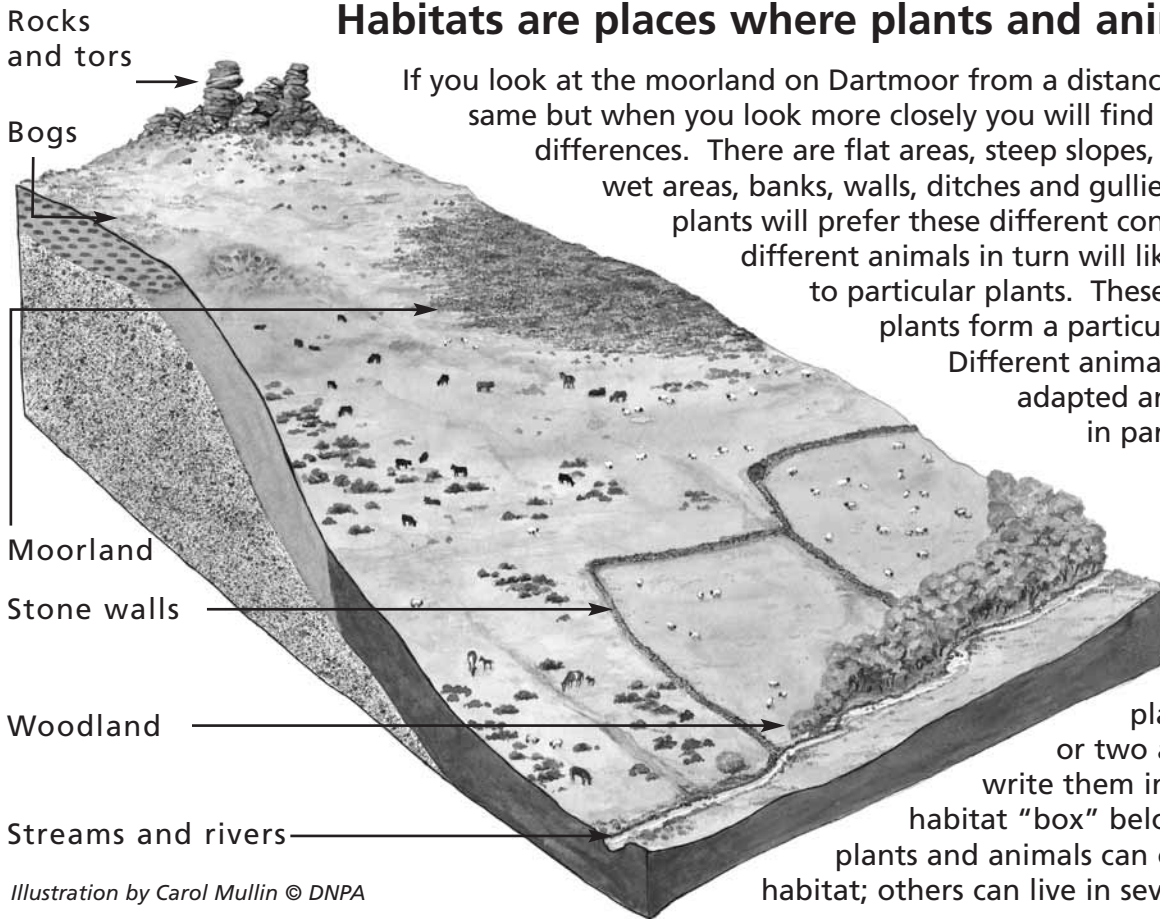


Dor beetles lay eggs and feed on animal dung

Fox Moth caterpillars eat nothing but heather



Habitats are places where plants and animals live



If you look at the moorland on Dartmoor from a distance it all looks the same but when you look more closely you will find there are differences. There are flat areas, steep slopes, rocky places, wet areas, banks, walls, ditches and gullies. Different plants will prefer these different conditions and different animals in turn will like to live close to particular plants. These groups of plants form a particular **habitat**. Different animals will have adapted and prefer to live in particular habitats.

Look carefully at the plants and animals on pages 1, 2 and 3. Pick one or two plants and one or two animals and write them into the correct habitat "box" below. Some plants and animals can only live in one habitat; others can live in several habitats.

Illustration by Carol Mullin © DNPA

HABITATS	PLANTS	ANIMALS
rocks and tors		
bogs	for example sundew	
moorland		
woodland		for example fox
stream and rivers		

Further information available from our web site www.dartmoor-npa.gov.uk

- Fun Zone
- Factsheets
- Publications

For further information, and a list of other Fact Sheets available, contact the:
Communications, Education and Information Service,
 Dartmoor National Park Authority,
 Parke, Bovey Tracey, Newton Abbot,
 Devon TQ13 9JQ
 Tel: (01626) 832093
 E-mail: education@dartmoor-npa.gov.uk
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