



The following lessons are available at Wicken Fen.

Orienteering and Mapping

Come along and take part in our new orienteering sessions at Wicken Fen. Students are split into small teams and given a map, trundle wheel, and quiz sheet. Before setting out they are taught basic compass skills and co-ordinates. Each team has to follow a set course and find the animals that are positioned around the fen. Each team must have an accompanying adult.

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Soils

Come along to Wicken Fen and test the differences between a clay soil, a peat soil and a sandy soil. What are the constituents of each soil, where are they to be found at Wicken Fen and what are their uses? This activity usually involves a short walk to study what impact drainage has on peat. Students can also carry out an experiment using the three soils and measure the length of time that it take for water to drain through each type of soil.

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Fen Cottage

Travel back in time to the little thatched cottage and find out how people really used to live 100 years ago. Discover how they made their houses, what they ate and where they washed. The tour is followed by a Fen Cottage quiz to test the students' observation powers. (This can be taken back to school if time is limited).

While some of the group are taking part in the tour the rest of the group are in the classroom looking at photos and artefacts, such as stilts, thatching tools, reed, sedge and peat. In small groups, the students have to pair up specific pieces of text with an object. The groups work their way round until they have paired all objects and text. This, too, is followed by a quick quiz.

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Pond dipping

Dip from platforms into our specially constructed ponds to find mini monsters from the deep. Study water quality, habitats, life cycles, population studies and food chains.

In advance: Please let the education officer know what area of this topic you would like to concentrate on.

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Minibeasts

Come to Wicken Fen and search for invertebrates using a variety of trapping techniques. Investigate habitats, adaptation, life cycles and food chains using sweep nets, magnifiers, keys and tally sheets.

In advance: Please let the education officer know what area of this topic you would like to concentrate on.

O	W	Q
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Fen Flora

Using a simple key and equipment you will learn about the varieties of fen flora, where they grow and how they are adapted to their surroundings. Study life cycles including pollination and dispersal and look at how we use some of the more common fenland plants.

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Sensory

Come and appreciate the sensory world of Wicken Fen. Experience the sounds, colours, textures, smells and patterns at this National Nature Reserve. Look for the special things around the fen, and really use your senses

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Boardwalk

Follow this 3/4 mile long trail around a small area of this Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The boardwalk can be adapted to a number of topics whether it be history, geography, habitats or sensory. Please let the Education Officer know which subject you would like to concentrate on.

For smaller children: We can hide a variety of wooden animals which they have to find and identify.

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Upware Walk (Half Day)

Walk to or from Upware looking at a variety of subjects, from drainage to Fen flora, history to minibeasts, land management to wetland birds. If you would prefer to concentrate on one particular subject please let the Education Officer know, in advance.

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History of the Fens (Whole Day)

In our exciting full history day, experience life in the fens through three different activities.

Fen Cottage

Travel back in time to the little thatched cottage and find out how people really used to live 100 years ago. Discover how they made their houses, what they ate and where they washed. Get a feel for the tools used to harvest reed, sedge and peat. Learn about the past-times, the medicines and eating habits of past fen folk. This includes a short quiz and a game to compare 'old' and 'new'.

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Meet Cornelius Vermuyden

Take a Boardwalk with the man himself! We will send you, in advance, a list of questions for the children to ask Vermuyden as he takes them on a tour of the Fen.

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The Time Trail

The Fen Time Trail will take you on a journey of discovery from the Ice Age through Roman, Saxon and Viking times up to Mr Vermuyden in the 17th C. Then travel on past the times of wind pumps and drainage to steam engines and diesel and finally the electrical power of the 20th C and the terrible floods of the 30s and 40s and ending in the present day celebration of Wicken Fen's centenary.

Children will be able to match pictures with text and illustrate their own time line.

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The Evolution Time Trail and Adaptasaurus Challenge

This time trail will take you on the trail to find out exactly when reptiles, birds, mammals, plants and bacteria came along. Place the pictures on our enormous time line and the children can add some of their own too. The Adaptasaurus challenge allows the children to make up their own special beast.

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Maths Trail

A fun group of maths and observational activities for children to identify shapes and features on the Fen from pictures and outside in the natural environment. Some activities can be self led.

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O= this activity takes place outside

I= this activity takes place inside

W= worksheet available

Q= quiz available