

BEAVERS

Global Issues Activity Badge Leaders' resource

Helping Beaver Scouts discover the world



scouts.org.uk/join
#SkillsForLife



Global Issues Activity Badge – Beavers

Introduction

This resource has been developed to support you to complete the Global Issues Activity Badge with your Colony. Activity ideas and background information are provided for each requirement of the badge.

This badge links to the Global Goals that children, adults and governments all over the world are trying to achieve to make the world a better place. Find out more at globalgoals.org. By completing this badge, Beavers can play their part in helping to change the world.

Badge requirements

How to earn your badge

- 1 Learn about how to save energy or recycle. Decide on three ways your Colony could save energy or recycle to help save the environment.
- 2 Try different kinds of fairly traded products. Talk about the benefits of fair trade in the world.
- 3 Learn about endangered animals and transform your Colony into endangered animals by making masks or costumes. Why are they endangered and how could we save them? You might include polar bears, Siberian tigers, white rhinos, mountain gorillas and loggerhead sea turtles.
- 4 Talk about the problems some people have finding clean and safe drinking water. Make a water filter. You could make it out of a soft drink bottle and use things like cotton wool, pebbles and kitchen roll to filter your water.

Please note that these badge requirements are correct as of September 2018. For up to date information and badge requirements, please visit the members' area of scouts.org.uk.

Flexibility

Each young person who participates in the programme, including badges and awards, should face a similar degree of challenge, and requirements can be adapted according to each young person's abilities. For more information and practical tips, see our guidance at scouts.org.uk/diversity.

Additional resources

A certificate is available for Beavers who have completed their badge. The certificate can be customised and downloaded or ordered from the Scout brand centre at scouts.org.uk/brand.

Additional resources to support the global elements of the programme can be found at scouts.org.uk/globalprogramme.

For further support, please contact the Scout Information Centre on info.centre@scouts.org.uk.

Ideas and activities

1. Learn about how to save energy or recycle. Decide on three ways your Colony could save energy or recycle to help save the environment.

Saving energy and recycling are two ways we can help save the environment. Help Beavers to understand the issue and understand their role in saving energy in their lives.

Saving energy

The creation of energy, like electricity, can use up fossil fuels like coal and oil, and in the process release gases like carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which contributes to global warming. Electricity can be created using renewable resources like wind and sun, using wind turbines or solar panels, but less than 30% of electricity in the UK is created this way. By reducing our energy use, we can help reduce our impact on the environment. Saving water is one way to save energy, because energy is needed to transport and heat the water that we use.

Further information about saving energy can be found on the Energy Saving Trust website at energysavingtrust.org.uk.

Recycling

The production of new materials uses up energy and creates waste. If the materials are not recycled or reused, they end up in landfills or litter the environment, affecting wildlife. Some materials are not biodegradable and will take up space forever, and some will decompose really slowly, releasing gases into the atmosphere and contributing to global warming. Information about recycling, including how this operates in your area, can be found at recyclenow.com.

Here are some ideas to help Beavers learn about recycling

- Organise a trip to a local recycling centre to find out what happens to our rubbish and recycling.
- Do some junk modelling, photograph the models and then break the items back down to sort for recycling.
- Play the game below, which is an adaptation of the game North South East West.

What is global warming?

Over time, our planet has been getting warmer. It can be hard to tell from day-to-day weather, but looking at temperature, rainfall, wind and other conditions worldwide over a long period of time, scientists have found that the world is heating up faster than any point in history. This means that as the years go on, weather will get more extreme and unpredictable, and that as time goes on, it will make things harder for humans, animals and wildlife to cope. For example, polar bears' homes on the sea ice is disappearing and it will become harder for farmers to grow crops for food.

Game: Race to recycle

Time needed

30 – 45 minutes

You will need

- signs labelled 'recycle at home' 'compost' 'recycling centre or collection point' and 'not recyclable' (pages 7 to 10, or make your own)
- list of items on page 11 (optional)
- plain paper
- pens or colouring pens
- sticky dots, Post-its or lego

Instructions

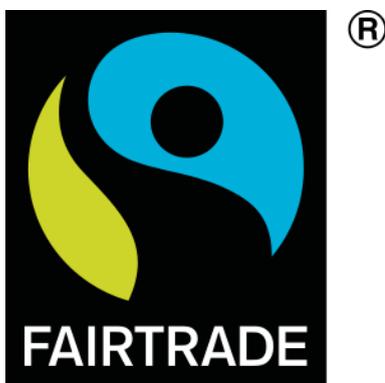
- 1 Ask Beavers what they know about climate change or global warming, and if they know what we can do to help. Explain that we can all help to make a difference by saving energy and recycling.

- 2 Ask them about any recycling they already do at home. Do they know that some recycling items need to be taken to a recycling centre or to a collection point (eg at a supermarket)?
- 3 Now, place the four signs spread out around the space. Signs can be adapted if needed, to reflect how your local council organise recycling in your area.
- 4 Explain that you will be calling out some items and Beavers will be running to one of the signs, depending on whether they think it's something they can put in their recycling bin at home, compost, take to a recycling centre or collection point, or if it's something that is not recyclable.
- 5 Call out items from a list and after each round, reveal the correct answer. A list is provided on page 11, but it's worth checking for any variations in your area. You can find out about what can be recycled in your local area and where, using the recycling locator at [recyclenow.com](https://www.recyclenow.com)
- 6 Next, gather the Beavers together, and ask them to think about ways that they can save energy or recycle. These could be things they do together as a Colony or plan to do at home. Ask them to write or draw each idea on a piece of paper. Here are some ideas:
 - use reusable cups rather than plastic cups for drinks at Beavers
 - turn the tap off while you're brushing your teeth
 - make a recycling station at the meeting place, to recycle things that can't go in household recycling bins
 - remember to turn lights off when you leave the room
 - make recycling bins for the meeting place
 - walk to Beavers instead of going in the car.
- 7 Then, to vote on which three of these ideas to do, ask Beavers to stick Post-it notes or sticky dots on their favourite ideas, and then you can select the three with the most votes. Alternatively, you could ask them to add a lego brick to their favourite idea, and then select the three ideas with the tallest towers.
- 8 If you have time, Beavers could design a poster of the three actions they're going to take, to display in the meeting place as a visual reminder.

2. Try different kinds of fairly traded products. Talk about the benefits of fair trade in the world. Make, build or draw something to represent a country. Include things like its currency, national dress, cultures, customs and languages.

From bananas to cotton and tea to gold, fairly traded products vary. An important principle is that fair trade is about making sure that workers, including farmers, are paid fairly and have better working conditions. Some companies may not pay workers very much money, but the company will be making lots of money from selling the products.

You can find many fairly traded products in your local supermarket. There are different logos used on fairly traded products. One example is the International Fairtrade Certification Mark, which is a label used by Fairtrade International.



The Fairtrade Foundation has lots of information, ideas and resources available at [fairtrade.org.uk](https://www.fairtrade.org.uk). You could do this part of the badge during Fairtrade Fortnight which happens in late February each year.

Activity: Fair trade chocolate bananas

A classic backwoods treat that can also be made in your meeting place, chocolate bananas are the ultimate sweet food whether they're cooked on a fire or in an oven.

Time needed

30 minutes

You will need

- fairly traded bananas
- fairly traded chocolate or chocolate buttons
- table knives
- foil
- tongs
- computer with internet access or downloaded video (optional)

Instructions

- 1 Introduce the activity and show the Beavers the ingredients for the activity. Can the Beavers tell that the ingredients are fairly traded? Do they know what this means? To help them identify with the topic, you could ask them what 'fair' means to them, and if anything unfair has happened to them and how it made them feel.
- 2 You could show Beavers the Pablo the Super Banana video from the Fairtrade Foundation, available to view and download at vimeo.com/153120034.
- 3 Give each Beaver a banana. Ask them to place it on its side and use a table knife to cut a slit in the side that is facing up. Alternatively, you could prepare the bananas beforehand.
- 4 Ask Beavers to carefully fill their banana with chocolate, and then wrap it in foil, making sure they remember which is the right way up.
- 5 Use tongs to place the bananas in the embers of a campfire for two to five minutes. You could also place them on a grill above the fire, or use an oven.
- 6 When the chocolate is melted, remove the bananas and leave them for a few minutes to cool before eating. During this, ask the Beavers what they remember about fair trade.

3. Learn about endangered animals and transform your Colony into endangered animals by making masks or costumes. Why are they endangered and how could we save them? You might include polar bears, Siberian tigers, white rhinos, mountain gorillas and loggerhead sea turtles.

If a species is classified as endangered, this means it is very likely to become extinct. This could be due to their habitats being destroyed, hunting, or other reasons. But, we can make a difference. Giant pandas were endangered but they aren't anymore and that's because people have been helping to protect them. There are charities which work to help save species from extinction, such as protecting forests and preventing illegal hunting.

Although they are not listed as endangered on an international level, there are animals in the UK that are struggling, like red squirrels, bats, hedgehogs and even beavers! European beavers became extinct in the UK in the 16th century because of hunting, and they are now being reintroduced. They create great habitats for other wildlife and might help protect humans from flooding.

There are many ways in which this requirement can be covered; the activity below is just one idea. You could use other creative methods such as drama, speech or animal sounds. Information about some endangered animals can be found on pages 12 and 13.

You can find more information about endangered animals from the World Wildlife Fund worldwildlife.org, RSPB rspb.org.uk or National Geographic nationalgeographic.com. You could also get in touch with your local Wildlife Trust wildlifetrusts.org to find out about animals in your area.

Activity: Make an animal mask**Time needed**

40 minutes

You will need

- paper plates
- elastic or string
- scissors
- hole punch
- craft materials
- printout of information about endangered animals on pages 12 and 13
- play parachute (optional)

Instructions

- 1 Ask the Beavers about what animals they think are endangered and why.
- 2 Then, show them some pictures of endangered animals on pages 12 and 13. See if they can name the animals, and what they know about them. Help them learn about why each of them are endangered, and what can be done to help save them.
- 3 Then, ask them each to choose their favourite endangered animal, to make a mask.
- 4 Using paper plates, help Beavers to cut eye and mouth holes for their mask, and punch a hole in each side, to attach the string or elastic later. Alternatively, you could prepare these beforehand.
- 5 Ask Beavers to use painting, colouring or collage to make a mask of their animal. If painting, leave the masks to dry.
- 6 Attach the elastic or string to the mask.
- 7 Then, play a game in a circle or using a parachute, to help them remember what they've learnt, whilst burning off some energy. Call out different facts and ask Beavers to swap places if the fact applies to their animal. Here are some suggestions:
 - this animal has patterns on its fur
 - we can help this animal by reducing climate change
 - this animal lives in Africa
 - we can help this animal by helping to stop illegal hunting
 - this animal sleeps all day.

4. Talk about the problems some people have finding clean and safe drinking water. Make a water filter. You could make it out of a soft drink bottle and use things like cotton wool, pebbles and kitchen roll to filter your water.

Access to clean drinking water is a challenge in many parts of the world. There are millions of people in the world living without easy access to water and one in nine people don't have clean water close to home. More information can be found on the WaterAid website at wateraid.org.

Help Beavers to understand the difficulty of filtering water and how lucky we are that we have access to it. They can have a go at making a simple water filter by following the instructions below.

Want more ideas for global issues and water? Take a look at the A Million Hands resources at amillionhands.org.uk for more ideas and activities to do with your Colony on the topic of clean water and sanitation.

Activity: Make a water filter**Time needed**

30 minutes

You will need (per filter)

- 2 litre plastic bottle
- scissors
- gravel and sand
- cotton wool
- napkins
- water with soil or mud mixed in

Instructions

- 1 Introduce the topic by showing Beavers the dirty water, and ask them if they think anyone would want to drink it. What could they do if they only had access to dirty water? Explain that there are millions of adults and children in the world who don't have clean water close to their home and so have to try to filter dirty water or travel a long distance.
- 2 Divide Beavers into small groups and help them to carefully cut a plastic bottle in half using scissors. Alternatively, prepare the bottles beforehand.
- 3 Show the Beavers how to put the top half of the plastic bottle (the end with the bottle top) upside-down (like a funnel) inside the bottom half. The top half will be where they build their filter and the bottom half will hold the filtered water.
- 4 Ask Beavers to choose some filter materials (napkins, cotton wool, gravel, sand) and layer them inside the top half of the bottle. Encourage them to think about what each material might remove from the dirty water and in what order they should layer the materials. For an extra challenge, they could choose only two of the filter materials.
- 5 Next, help them to test out their creations, by carefully pouring the dirty water through the filter. You could gather the groups together for this and talk about which filter works best and why, or get them to wipe the bottle clean and have another go. Can they improve their design using different layers or different materials?
- 6 Remind Beavers how lucky we are to have access to clean water where we live.

Safety guidance: Make sure that no members of the Colony attempt to drink the water. While this basic style of filter can be a great survival technique in certain areas, we'd never recommend drinking the water – there is still the risk you may become ill.



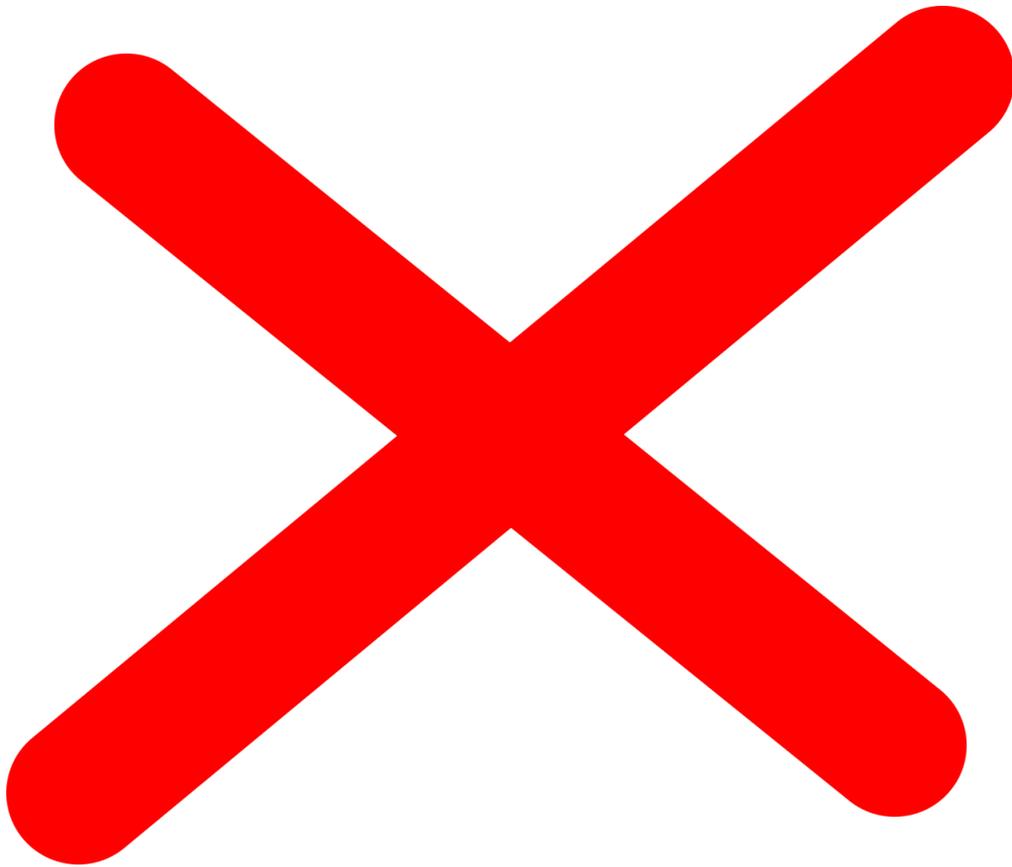
Recycle at home



Compost



Recycling centre or collection point



Not recyclable

Recycling information

Usually can be put in recycling bins at home

- cereal boxes
- newspapers
- empty toilet rolls
- glass jars
- fizzy drink cans
- shampoo bottles
- milk bottles
- yoghurt pots

Usually needs to be taken to a recycling centre or collection point

- batteries
- Energy efficient light bulbs
- Glasses (for vision)

Not recyclable

- old style light bulbs
- crisp packets
- sweet wrappers
- toothpaste tubes
- baby wipes
- nappies

Endangered animals



Image from worldwildlife.org

Tigers

- Tigers are the largest cat species.
- They live in 13 different countries in Asia.
- They live in lots of different places, such as forests, grasslands and even swamps.
- They are endangered because they are hunted by people who want to sell their parts or keep them in captivity, and because their habitats have been destroyed by human activities like building roads.
- We can help them survive by protecting their habitats and helping to stop illegal hunting.



Image from worldwildlife.org

Amur Leopards

- Amur Leopards live in big forests, mostly in Russia and some in China.
- They are nocturnal, meaning that they sleep in the day and stay awake at night.
- They can run up to 37 miles per hour!
- They are critically endangered, which means they are extremely high risk of going extinct. There are only about 80 adults left in the wild!
- They are hunted for their fur.
- We can help them by helping to stop illegal hunting.



Image from worldwildlife.org

Mountain gorillas

- Mountain gorillas live in high-altitude (high up) forests.
- Mountain gorillas live in Africa (in Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo).
- Gorillas are some of our closest relatives.
- They are critically endangered. There are only about 880 mountain gorillas left.
- People are destroying their habitats for mining.
- Gorillas are mostly vegetarian. They eat a lot of leaves!
- We can help them by helping to save forests.



Image from worldwildlife.org

Polar bears

- Polar bears live on the sea ice of the Arctic Ocean.
- They spend over 50% of their time hunting for food, which is mostly seals.
- They are listed as a vulnerable species, which means they are likely to become endangered.
- Climate change means that sea ice is melting. This means that it's harder for them to hunt seals and to find space to rest.
- We can help them by doing our bit to prevent climate change.