

Potential themes and activities for wild deer related study

Subject	Possible activity	Useful resources
Geography	Class could do some practical exercises in map reading. Discussions about human geography – understanding the landscape and different land uses in the uplands/lowlands. Thinking about the future of the rural environment, discussions about rewilding and sustainability, climate change, environmental resilience. What jobs are available (to young people). Do young people want to stay and work here – if so, then why? If not, then why not? What would make this place more attractive to stay? What are the perceptions of this working rural environment?	ADMG – deer-management.co.uk Trees for life – deer management in Scotland Deer management – FLS strategy
Geography/ history	Opportunity for discussion about the cultural history of the landscape. Is there a rich history here that can be explored? What developments – industrial, environmental, rural, social etc – have there been over the years and how have these affected local populations. What conservation activity has taken place? What might come next and what is driving it?	
Business studies	Running a food business, marketing a venison brand or product. Discuss the value of the whole carcass (the price paid to the estate when sold to a game dealer whole) compared to retail value gained by processing, butchery, making mince, steaks, pies etc. Pupils could think about how venison could be best marketed and to who – ie local or visitor markets, or both. What are the barriers to people buying venison currently – availability, price, uncertainty around how to cook it? What would influence people to buy it or buy more? Should it be a luxury product or available to all? Should a portion be given away through food banks to combat food poverty?	Scottish Venison
Home economics	Learning about the health benefits of venison (lean meat, sustainably harvested). How to cook it and what locally harvested flavours naturally complement it- blaeberrries, rowan jelly, herbs etc. What are the various cuts and what dishes could you use it in - burgers, lasagne, mince, stir fry, casseroles etc. Bring in local chef to demonstrate some cooking recipes and will be on hand to help with cooking if needed.	Scottish Venison
Biology and ecology	Deer have an amazing biological cycle (including antler development) and topics could include understanding predator prey relationships and interactions with the habitat. Create the opportunity to inspect a carcass in the larder looking at organs, respiratory system, digestive system. Look at the health of habitats and the vegetation and link that to the health of the deer.	Scottish-Venison.com/for-students British Deer Society – deer species Best Practice Guidance
English	Use the experience to create a story or news article, VLOG, media coverage, short film. Topics could include deer management, estate management, rewilding. Is there a local photographer who might be available to talk about different forms of media and wildlife photography?	Scotland The Big Picture – Fiadh Project
Maths, biology	Managing deer effectively requires you to know how many you have and what impact they are having in order that you can "do the maths" and figure out how many needed to be culled as part of a management programme. This requires understanding simple population dynamics of deer: births, death, immigration and emigration.	NatureScot – populations models Wild Deer Best Practice – deer counting

Based on information provided by Caorann Consulting/Affric Highlands/NTS for Hill to Grill Project.