

This unit of work is designed to introduce pupils to the rarest carnivore in Scotland, the Scottish wildcat. This creature is almost extinct in Scotland but recent conservation projects are trying to prevent the final disappearance of a species that has survived on the British Isles for millennia. Pupils will carry out a number of tasks across a wide range of subject disciplines to gain a deeper understanding about the issues facing the Scottish wildcat and will learn about the cultural influence the mammal has had in Scotland. The Scottish government has emphasised the value in interdisciplinary learning and this has been implemented to allow the pupils to think about the peril of the species from a variety of perspectives. There are also opportunities for numeracy, literacy, and health and wellbeing development. The outdoor learning session, provided in partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) will allow pupils to imagine the life of a Scottish wildcat, while gaining valuable social and team working skills. Should we let this species filter away or should we do all we can to preserve its place in Scotland? The pupils will decide!

1

English

The pupils are first introduced to the Scottish wildcat with a poem; "On the Death of a Wildcat" by Chris Scott-Wilson, which discusses the past and perils of the species. The pupils will be encouraged to perform a close reading task to critically analyse the poem and to discuss the emotions the reader is trying to arouse.

LIT 2-16a ENG 3-19a ENG 3-31a



History

2

The Scottish wildcat is the symbol of many Scottish clans, including clan MacBean. The pupils will learn about the battle of Culloden and the clan's involvement in it. Is the clan's motto "Touch Not A Catt Bot A Targe" a good description of the clan?

SOC 3-02a SOC 4-06b



3

Science

The concept of biodiversity will be introduced and the reasons for the wildcat's decline will be discussed; the effect of human activity and the introduction of the feral house cat. The conservation efforts will be investigated and pupils will calculate how many years it will take to reach the goal.

SCN 4-01a MTH 3-13a SCN 2-01a

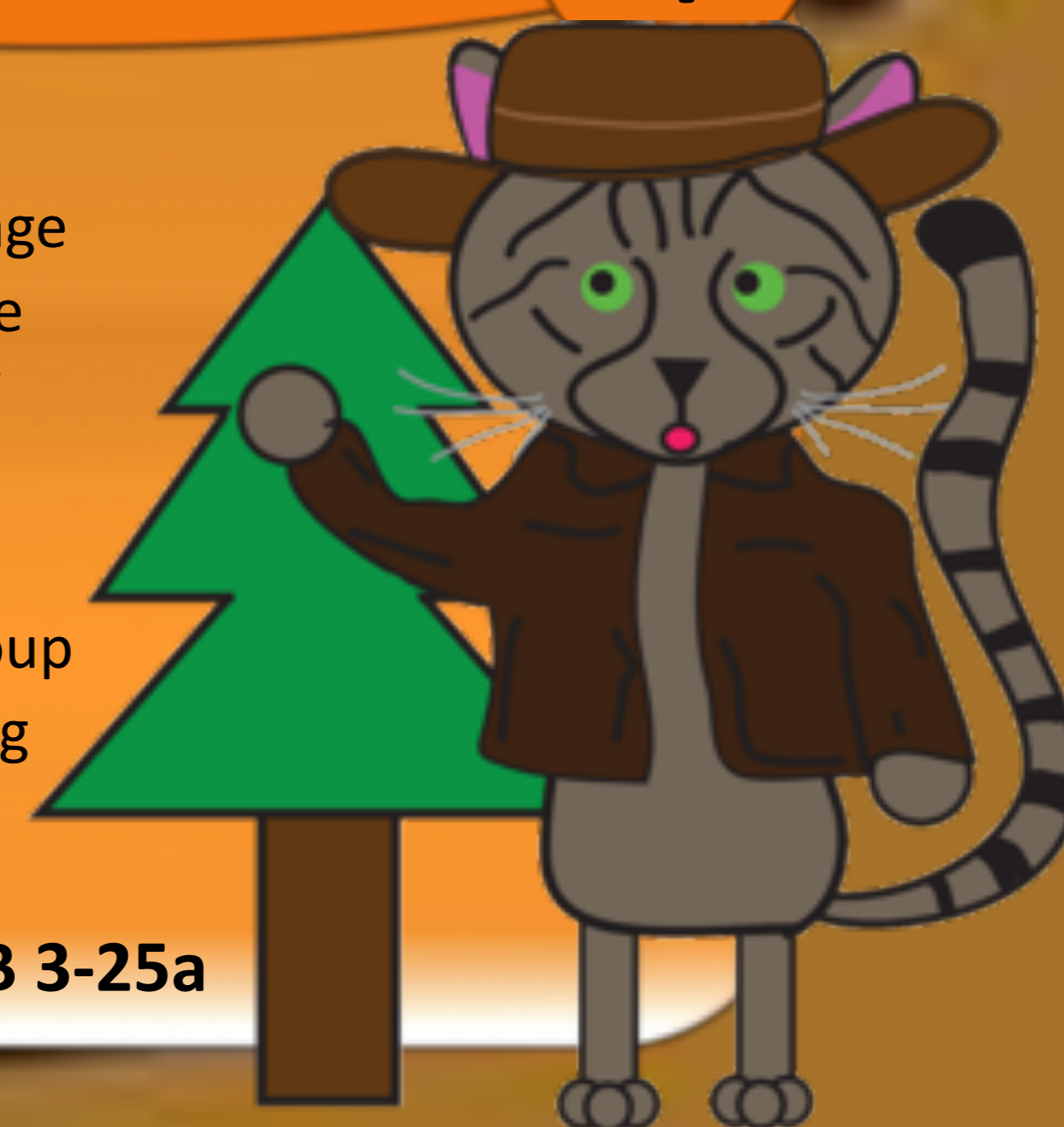


Outdoors

4

In collaboration with Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) the pupils will be taken to the habitat of the Scottish wildcat (Angus Glens). The pupils will perform group activities while learning about its behaviour.

HWB 4-14a HWB 3-25a



5

RMPS

This is the final lesson in the unit. The pupils will debate the morality of saving a dying species. Is saving the species or letting it naturally die off the better idea? The pupils will gain debating skills and learn how to put forward a convincing argument.

RME 4-09e HWB 4-01a LIT 4-02a



Learning intentions

Throughout the unit the pupils will:

1. Be able to examine the emotion conveyed by a piece of poetry or similar texts.
2. Have investigated the history of Scottish clans, the battle of Culloden and its aftermath.
3. Understand animal conservation and the impact humans have on the survival of a species.
4. Have gained valuable social skills in an outdoor setting.
5. Have explored morality and be able to argue their point of view in a respectable manner.