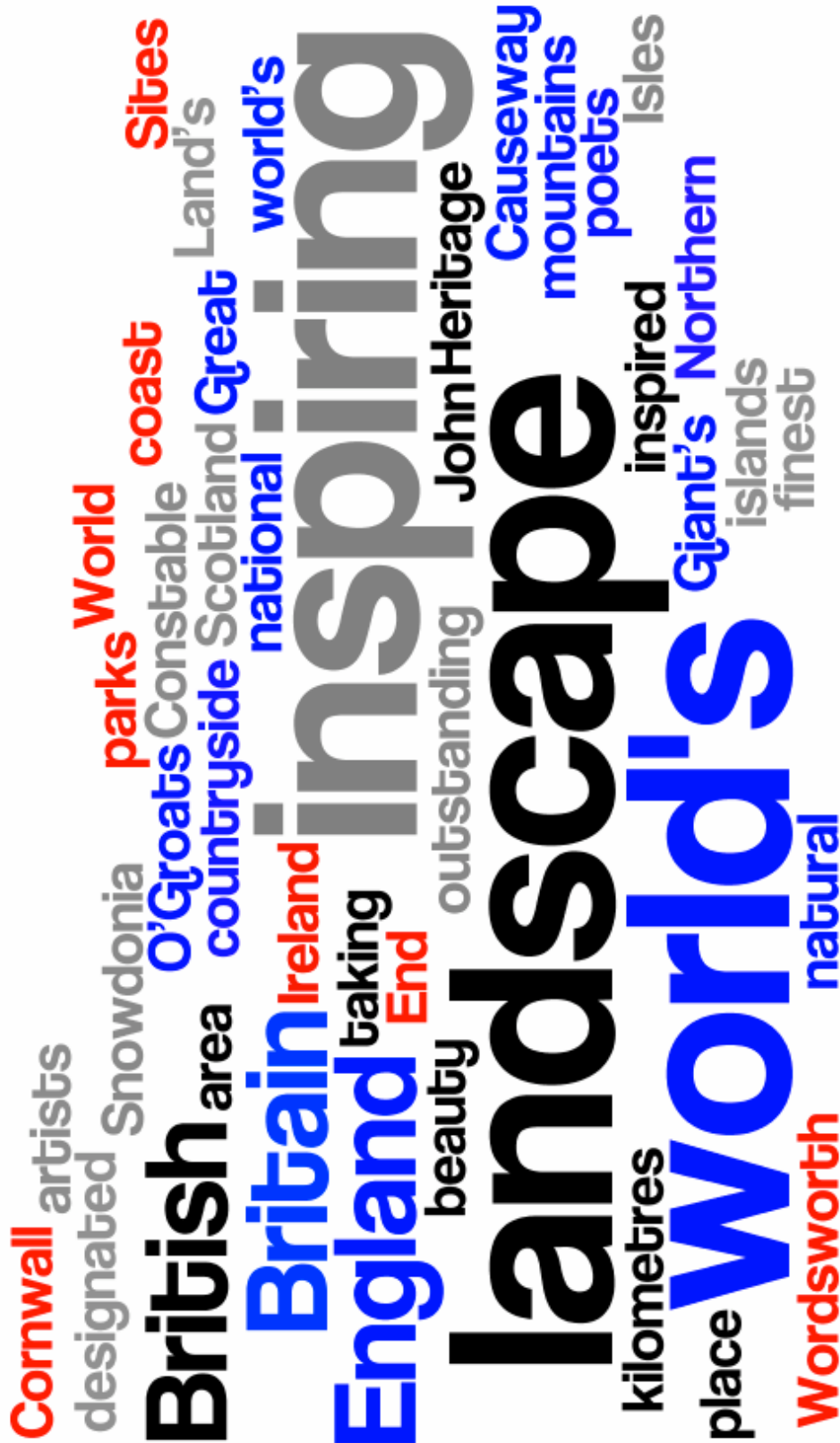


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Task 1

Make a sentence from the words in the word cloud.



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Task 2

Look at the poster. What can you see in the picture?



Which of the following adjectives would you use to describe the picture?

bleak serene peaceful picturesque boring dull
remote breathtaking rural unpolluted unspoilt remarkable

- Are these words positive, negative or neutral?
- Can you think of synonyms or antonyms (which are not already in the box) for any of these words?

Task 3

Discussion

1. In pairs, talk about the countryside.

You should say:

- if you like being in the countryside
- what you like to do in the countryside
- where, in your opinion, the most beautiful rural area is

2. Discuss the following question with your partner:

- How important is it for us to preserve the countryside and what are the factors which threaten its preservation?

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Task 4

Vocabulary

1. Look at the map below, which shows all the National Parks in the UK.

NATIONAL PARKS
Britain's breathing spaces



2. Watch the video of Daniel (available here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A38Wzc9azQg>), which shows him at the signposts of British National Parks he visited in 2009.

- Which one(s) are not mentioned?

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Task 5

Reading

1. Read the interview.
 - Do you think it is a good idea to have National Parks? Why?

What are National Parks?

National Parks are extensive areas of countryside which have been given this status to ensure they are protected to **sustain** their special qualities. The conservation of the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of these parks is paramount, yet they also provide opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the great British countryside.

How many National Parks are there and where are they?

In total, there are 15 National Parks. Ten of these are in England, two are in Scotland and three are in Wales. The size of the parks varies from 305 to 3,800 square kilometres and they **constitute** 9% of English land.

Who owns the National Parks?

A lot of the land within the National parks is privately owned by farmers and the many people who live in the villages and towns there. Landowners also include organisations such as the National Trust. The government-funded National Park **Authorities** (who work alongside the landowners to preserve the landscape and **protect its natural beauty, wildlife and historic sites**) sometimes own parts of the land, too. It is also the responsibility of park authorities to educate visitors about the parks and **facilitate** their enjoyment of them.

Who pays for the National Parks?

English National Park and Broads Authorities are **funded** by the government. Lottery and European grants and **collaborative** projects also help to pay for the **upkeep** of these unspoilt areas.

Who makes decisions about the future of National Parks?

Any planning or decisions made to make changes to areas **designated** as National Parks is closely controlled and the conservation of the natural beauty of the countryside is **paramount**. Only under **exceptional** circumstances is major development allowed to take place.

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 designates the National Parks in England. They are created when this designation has been **confirmed** by the **Secretary of State**. The Welsh Assembly Government and The Scottish Government take responsibility for the National Parks in their countries. The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988 manages the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads.

When were the National Parks designated?

The first National Parks, which were designated in 1951, include the Peak District, Lake District, Snowdonia and Dartmoor. The most recent National Park to gain its **status** was the South Downs in 2010.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Broads is a network of rivers and lakes in the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk. It is Britain's largest protected wetland and it is the third largest inland waterway. As such, it is not technically a designated National Park, however it was given **equivalent** status and is considered part of the 'National Park family'.

Are National Parks good places to visit?

Absolutely. Lots of people like to get involved in outdoor activities like walking, cycling, sailing and adventure sports. Whether you want a peaceful, relaxing break, or an action-packed holiday, you can be **assured** that you'll see beautiful scenery and remarkable wildlife.

2. In his video, why did Daniel not mention two of the National Parks?

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Task 6
Post-reading vocabulary activity

Look at the definitions in the table below. Find words in bold from the text which have the same meaning.

organisations with administrative powers in a specific field	
make up; form; compose	
paid for	
support; keep in existence	
an official position/title	
made certain; guaranteed	
maintenance; keeping something in good condition	
selected; set aside for a duty/purpose	
more important than anything else	
uncommon; deviating from the norm	
head of a government department	
verified; made official	
the same; an equal amount of something	
involving two or more people/ organisations working together for the same purpose	
make easier or possible	

- In your country, is there a similar system whereby areas of land are given extra importance in terms of conservation?
 - If so, do you know where all the National Parks are and have you visited any of them?
 - If not, do you think there should be a similar system? Why? Why not?
- Do you think it is important for the government to spend money on National Parks?

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Task 7

Speaking and listening (information-gap) activity

1. In groups, you are now going to find out a bit more about countryside attractions in the UK.

- Look at the questions below (1-16)
- Your teacher will give you a text
- Read your text and answer the 4 questions you have the answers to
- Now talk to the other people in your group to find the answer to the other 12 questions

Questions

- a) When did the volcanic activity which is responsible for Giant's Causeway occur?
- b) When was the estate of Chatsworth bought and by which family is it owned?
- c) How many people are estimated to make use of the Chatsworth estate on an annual basis?
- d) What is the Scottish word for 'lake'?
- e) What is the name of the film, set at Chatsworth House, in which Keira Knightley takes the lead role?
- f) What is the nickname of the Loch Ness Monster?
- g) What are the polygonal interlocking rock columns at Giant's Causeway made of and how many are there?
- h) Who owns Stonehenge?
- i) What is Ireland's top tourist attraction?
- j) In which year was Giant's Causeway declared a World Heritage Site?
- k) What is the name of one of Derbyshire's most popular tourist attractions?
- l) What is the name of the largest lake in Scotland (by volume) and how deep is its deepest point?
- m) What happens in Wiltshire each year at the time of the summer solstice?
- n) Approximately how old is Stonehenge?
- o) Why was Stonehenge constructed?
- p) What is the name of Scotland's fastest growing city?

2. In your group, discuss the following question.

- Which of the attractions would you most like to visit and why?

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Task 8

Loch Ness is a deep, freshwater loch (Scottish Gaelic for 'lake') in the remote highlands of Scotland. It is a very popular tourist destination in the UK and there are plenty of outdoor activities to do in the area, including golf, fishing and hiking, and (for the very fit!) there is an annual marathon. Nearby are charming towns and villages and the city of Inverness, which is growing faster than any other city in the country. In terms of its volume, Loch Ness is Scotland's largest lake. It measures over 20 miles long, a mile wide and has a depth of over 700 metres at its deepest point. The thing that Loch Ness is arguably most famous for is the legend of the monster which supposedly lurks in the water. If you visit, you could take a boat cruise and, if you're lucky, you might catch a glimpse of the world famous 'Nessie'.

Giant's Causeway, the very famous area of remarkable rock formation, is situated on the north coast of Ireland, and has become the country's top tourist attraction. The area is host to approximately 40,000 interlocking columns of basalt rock, and was formed as a result of volcanic activity between 50 and 60 million years ago. Visitors are enticed to see the polygonal (multi-sided) basalt columns which look like stepping stones going downwards to the sea. Declared as Ireland's first World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986, the Giant's Causeway is now owned and run by The National Trust and is home to numerous species of rare birds and plants.

Chatsworth House is an 18th-century stately home and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Derbyshire. Set in picturesque grounds, the serene gardens are spectacular and are home to a huge maze, rare trees, fountains and ponds. The estate of Chatsworth was bought in 1549 by Sir William Cavendish. He soon started building the house and it has remained in the family ever since. The Chatsworth estate covers more than 35,000 acres of Derbyshire and Staffordshire and is situated along the River Derwent. Inside the house there are more than 30 rooms, a large library and a magnificent collection of paintings. In 2002, more than 620,000 people visited the estate and it is estimated that more than a million people use it in some way every year. In 2008, it was the setting for the film *The Duchess* starring Keira Knightley and Ralph Fiennes.

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Stonehenge is a breathtaking prehistoric monument in the rural county of Wiltshire in the south of England. It is composed of enormous standing stones which are set into the ground to form a circular shape and archaeologists believe it dates back to anywhere from approximately 3000 BC to approximately 2000 BC. In 1986, UNESCO added the site and its surroundings to its list of World Heritage Sites. The Crown owns Stonehenge and it is managed by English Heritage, however the surrounding land is owned by the National Trust. Although many years and a lot of money have been spent on researching the site, the reason behind the construction of Stonehenge remains a mystery. Each year, at the time of the summer solstice, the monument is in alignment with the sun. This attracts many visitors, including those who view this as having religious significance.

Task 9

Extension activities

1. Make an information leaflet for people wanting to visit an area in the countryside

You should include:

- Where it is located
- What the local attractions are and information about them
- What activities you can do there

If you use a UK destination, it would be useful to include information about the Countryside Code (more information here

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/countrysidecode/default.aspx>)

You may want to you use this online tool to achieve a more professional finish

<http://www.mybrochuremaker.com/>

2. The British countryside has inspired many great artists and poets, one of whom being William Wordsworth. The British Council has a podcast and exercises to accompany the poem *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* and you can access it here:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/learnenglish-podcasts-poems-lonely-cloud-support-pack.pdf>