

LESSON PLAN

Drove Roads

AIM:

Through learning a little about the drove roads of Scotland, we can:

- Be immersed in the local environment.
- Understand better the beauty and the difficulties the environment provides
- Learn how important cattle droving was to Scotland's economy for 300 years
- Imagine life as a drover
- Develop confidence in walking distances and looking after ourselves
- Share stories

Have a look at this set of resources called Stories in the Land – Highland Drovers: <https://rsgs.org/exciting-learning/schools/resources/highland-drovers/> for ideas about what you might do.

ACTIVITIES:

Walk the Drove Roads that are part of the Cateran Trail

Why not, over the course of a term, say, or perhaps two, walk the Cateran Trail. It might be wise (depending on the teacher's skills, knowledge and confidence and the number of children involved) to enlist some help.

- Decide where to start and the order in which to do the walk.
- Sort out with children what kit will be required.
- Have a wee practice walk and review kit.
- Hold a meeting with parents to discuss necessary kit and requirements.
- Create necessary risk assessments (with support if required).

Start walking.

Keep walking.

As you walk, share stories of the drovers (You can find a lot of resources here: <https://rsgs.org/exciting-learning/schools/resources/highland-drovers/>, or of Sheila and Belle Stewart, or of James Sandy.

Look out for native trees and lichens. Point out the Highland Boundary Fault. Talk about the Caterans. Look at the Barry Hill Fort, The Bannerfield and Oakbank Mill. Collect photographs and records of points of interest.

As you finish each section, catalogue these pictures to create a display to share with parents.

Build a drovers camp

Consider establishing a drovers camp which would represent the overnight stops known as 'stances' which were used by the drovers.

If you can bring a local expert in to help you, pupils could learn how to make a shelter that the drovers may have used, build a camp fire with flints or a bow drill, bake bannocks and even make butter. They could also learn how to make string and create felt out of sheep fleece.

Pupils could then be encouraged to work in groups to create a story that responds to their experience of building a drovers camp and the natural environment around them.