



GCSE

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE
FOUNDATION TIER
UNIT 2**

A.M. THURSDAY, 5 June 2014

Resource Material for use with Section A

Save the Badger



Save the Badger campaigns against culling, trapping, snaring, baiting or any other form of persecution of badgers.

On 13th January 2010, the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) announced it had given the final go-ahead for a cull of badgers in two areas in Wales – we use the word ‘cull’ but **slaughter** might have been a more accurate word to describe their plan. We firmly believe that culling badgers will **not** solve the problem of TB in cattle. Scientific studies have shown that culling would be of little help in reducing the disease, and could actually make things worse in some areas.

Save the Badger was set up to campaign against this attack on badgers. After a long, hard campaign and donations from the public we challenged WAG’s decision in court – we were extremely relieved that on 13th July 2011 the cull was finally halted.

However, new threats and new challenges emerge almost daily. Sadly, the UK government has announced that it now plans to cull badgers in two areas of England. It has indicated that after this initial slaughter it then intends to extend its cull to other parts of England. We also realise that in Wales, even now, there are still groups determined to blame badgers for disease in cattle, even though nearly every scientist involved in this work, and many farmers too, are convinced that even if we could exterminate every badger in Britain, it would not get rid of TB in cows.

“The evidence is that a badger cull on a huge scale will not solve cattle farmers’ problems. The feeling is that something must be done but the evidence shows killing badgers is not the answer.” – Sir David Attenborough



Badgers are protected by law and as was proved in the courts in Wales, there is no clear evidence that killing badgers would substantially reduce TB in cattle. For example, there was a cull in Ireland but TB remains a major problem and they are now trying vaccination. There are no badgers on the island of Anglesey but they have TB. There has been no cull in Scotland but they are free from TB. Scientists have expressed concerns that whole populations of healthy, uninfected badgers could be completely wiped out.

Save the Badger and other organisations such as the RSPCA are sympathetic to farmers and we are as concerned about cows as we are about badgers. We strongly believe the vaccination of badgers, increased levels of testing and stricter controls on the movement of cattle are more effective ways of getting rid of TB in cattle for good.

Save the Badger had hoped that the lessons learned from the planned cull in Wales would have made further legal action unnecessary. To ensure the long-term welfare and conservation of badgers we must do a lot more than rely on expensive legal challenges. After all, if this is our main strategy, then one day the money might dry up, or a legal challenge may be lost, and badgers will have to bear the awful consequences. We need better education and more public awareness. We need to listen more to farmers’ concerns, since the vast majority of badgers live on their farm land. We also need more co-operation between all the organisations that care about the welfare of badgers.

The public gives money willingly because it cares deeply and passionately about our wildlife. Please make your voice heard. If you want to know what you can do to help in the campaign against the badger cull in England, please contact us. We must unite together to fight this cruelty.



SAY NO TO KILLING BADGERS!