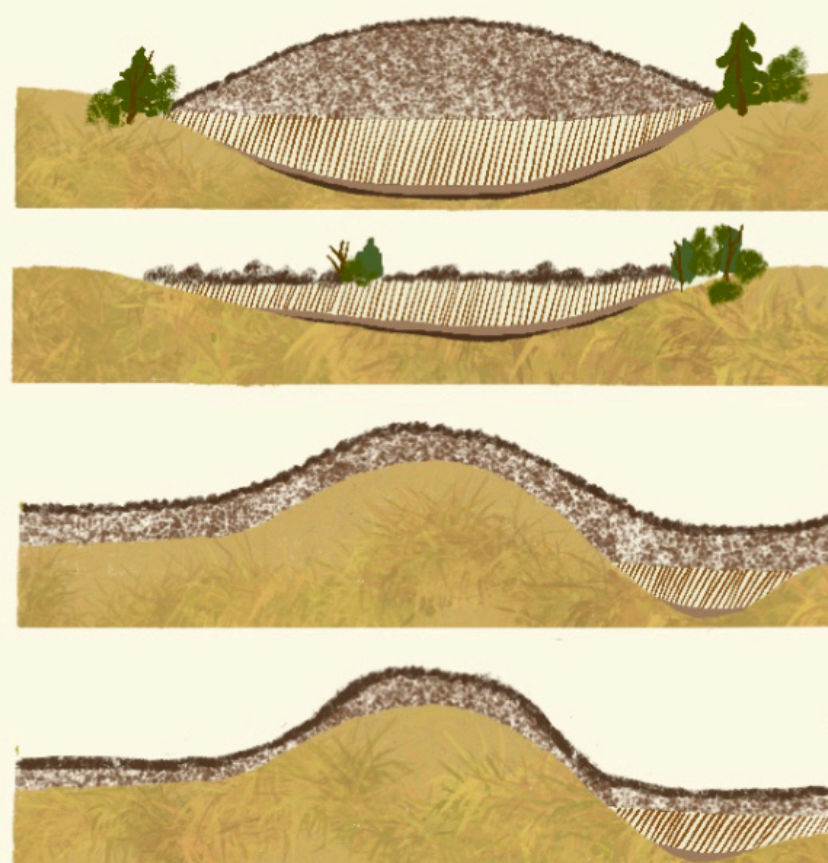


WHAT IS A PEATLAND?

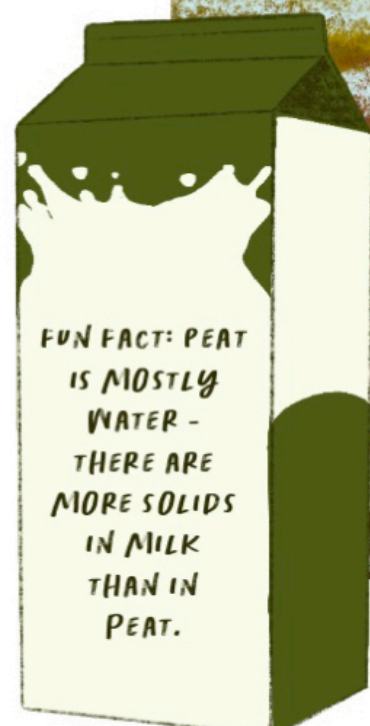
PEATLANDS ARE WETLANDS FORMED BY THE ACCUMULATION OF PARTLY DECOMPOSED VEGETATION. PEATLANDS ARE OUR OLDEST SURVIVING ECOSYSTEMS, MANY MORE THAN 10,000 YEARS OLD.

IN IRELAND PEATLANDS INCLUDE:

1. DEEP, LOWLAND RAISED BOGS, WHICH CAN BE UP TO 12M DEEP AND ARE KEPT WET BY RAINFALL ONLY.
2. FENS HAVE SHALLOWER DEPOSITS OF PEAT AND RECEIVE WATER BOTH FROM RAINFALL AND FROM GROUNDWATER THAT HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH MINERAL SOIL OR BEDROCK
3. BLANKET BOGS COVER THE LANDSCAPE LIKE A BLANKET BOTH IN THE UPLANDS AND THE LOWLANDS WHERE RAINFALL LEVELS ARE HIGH
4. WET HEATHS OCCUR ON GENTLY SLOPING, POORLY DRAINING GROUND WITH SHALLOW ACCUMULATIONS OF PEAT.



LAKE MURL LAKE PEAT BOG PEAT FEN PEAT



FUN FACT: PEAT IS MOSTLY WATER - THERE ARE MORE SOLIDS IN MILK THAN IN PEAT.



SPHAGNUM

SPHAGNUM MOSSES (SUSÁN) ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF BOGS (THERE ARE OVER 30 SPECIES IN IRELAND). SPHAGNUM MOSSES ACT LIKE A SPONGE AND STORE UP TO 20 TIMES THEIR OWN DRY WEIGHT IN WATER.

SUSÁN



FUN FACT: BOG ROSEMARY APPEARS ON OFFALY'S COUNTY COAT OF ARMS.

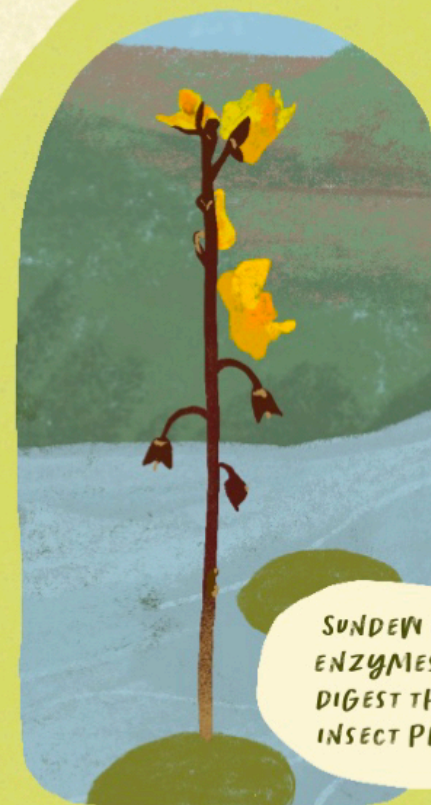
PEATLANDS ARE HOME TO A WIDE VARIETY OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS, SUPPORTING UNUSUAL AND RARE SPECIES WITH EXCEPTIONAL ADAPTATIONS TO LIFE IN A BOG.



SPECIES SUCH AS MARSH SAXIFRAGE (SAXIFRAGA HIRCULUS) ARE ONLY FOUND IN BLANKET BOGS.



BOG ORCHID (HAMMARBYA PALUDOSA), WHICH IS POLLINATED BY TINY INSECTS, IS ONE OF OUR RAREST WILDFLOWERS.



SUNDEW USE ENZYMES TO DIGEST THEIR INSECT PREY

SUNDEW



BLADDERWORT



BUTTERWORT

PEATLANDS ARE HOSTS TO SOME UNIQUE SPECIES, INCLUDING INSECTIVOROUS PLANTS — SUNDEWS, BLADDERWORTS AND BUTTERWORTS.

THERE ARE TEN SPECIES OF NATIVE CARNIVOROUS PLANTS IN IRELAND. THEY ARE ALL DEPENDENT ON PEATLANDS

RANNOCH-RUSH (SCHEUCHZERIA PALUSTRIS), POSSIBLY IRELAND'S RAREST PLANT SPECIES, WAS ONLY EVER FOUND ON POLLAGH BOG IN CO. OFFALY. IT BECAME EXTINCT WHEN THE BOG WAS DEVELOPED FOR PEAT EXTRACTION.

DRAGONFLIES AND BUTTERFLIES, SPIDERS AND BEETLES AND OTHER INSECTS, MANY RARE OR UNCOMMON ARE SPECIALLY ADAPTED TO OUR WET BOGGY LANDSCAPES.



BOGS ARE HOME TO ICONIC IRISH BIRD SPECIES SUCH AS CURLEW, RED GROUSE AND SNIPE.

MANY OF OUR LESS THAN 105 BREEDING PAIRS OF CURLEW ARE FOUND IN OUR PEATLANDS.

DEVELOPED BY THE NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland