

The Hunting Act

**Cruel
bloodsport
or country
pursuit? -
you
decide**

Classroom roleplay debate



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Teachers' Notes

Lesson plan for classroom role-play debate

This pack contains all the instructions, briefing notes, factsheets and worksheets required to run a balanced X-Factor-style role-play debate on the hunting issue. Ideal for KS4 and KS5. Easily adaptable for KS3.

Concepts to examine

- The ethics of hunting wild animals.
- Evaluating scientific evidence.
- Political decision-making.
- Resolving conflicting interests.

Objectives

Gain an understanding of the issues surrounding the debate concerning the repeal of the Hunting Act. Develop the skill of presenting a persuasive argument and debating a contentious issue. Practise critical thinking when analysing social and political issues.

Overview

This activity involves students taking on the role of competing groups engaged in debating whether or not the Hunting Act should be repealed. After preparing their argument, each group presents their case to the class. A panel of student judges questions each group following their presentation and then gives their verdict on each presentation. Finally, the whole class votes on whether or not they think the Hunting Act should be repealed (not in their respective 'roles').

Requirements

- Tables arranged for seven groups: three groups for repealing the hunt ban on one side of the room, three groups opposed to repealing the hunt ban on the other side of the room, and one table for the panel of judges.
- Clear a space at the front of the room for groups to give their presentations to the class.
- Resources provided:
 - > Fact file (sheet giving background info on the issue)
 - > Role cards (giving info on the position of each group – cards for three levels of difficulty are provided)
 - > Worksheets (for the citizenship version of the activity)
 - > Table signs (to identify each group)
 - > Score card (for judges to record each group's score following their presentation)
- Resources not provided:
 - > Colour marker pens
 - > Large sheets of paper for creating posters (for the English version of the activity)

Instructions

- Introduce the issues surrounding the Hunting Act. A short PowerPoint presentation giving a brief overview of the topic can be downloaded from the Animal Aid website.
- Explain that the activity will explore views on both sides of the debate and that they may have to present an argument that is not their own. See the Animal Aid website for a list of useful web-links.
- Select a group of 3 or 4 students to represent the panel of judges.
Provide the panel with:
 - > Fact file sheet
 - > Set of role cards (optional)
 - > Scorecard
 - > Table sign
- Divide the rest of the class into six groups (or four if it's a small class). Each will take on the role of a lobby group for or against the hunt ban.

- Provide each group with:
 - > Role card
 - > Fact file sheet (optional)
 - > Set of worksheets or large sheets of paper
 - > Colour marker pens
 - > Table sign
- The six lobby groups are:
 - > **For the hunt ban (against repealing the Hunting Act)**
 - Hunt Saboteurs Alliance (HSA)
 - Local anti-hunt residents
 - Wildlife scientists
 - > **Against the hunt ban (for repealing the Hunting Act)**
 - Countryside Association
 - Local hunt
 - Pro-hunt farmer

• Give the lobby groups 15 minutes to prepare their presentation. Suggest that they divide up the tasks between different members of the group. Their task is to prepare a presentation making their case either for or against repealing the hunt ban.

Option A: Creative version for English

Groups can:

- Prepare a speech
- Design a series of posters
- Produce a song, play, rap or comedy sketch

Option B: Pressure group version for citizenship

Groups should decide:

- 1) Whom they will target with their campaign message
- 2) The key messages or arguments they will use
- 3) The methods or tactics they will use to achieve their objective

Use the worksheets to:

- Produce a series of posters
- Plan a campaign
- Prepare a presentation

• While the lobby groups are working on their presentations, the panel of judges will prepare probing questions to ask each group following their presentation, and decide on the criteria that they will use to decide who is the winning team.

• Each group in turn gives their presentation to the class. They each have two minutes to put their case. Allow two minutes for the judges and members of the other groups to ask questions. Judges use the scorecard to record each group's score following their presentation.

• The judges, after briefly conferring, will then give their verdict on each of the presentations, and announce which they consider to be the best (the most effective, persuasive, imaginative, etc.) Finally, allow each member of the class to vote on whether or not they think the Hunting Act should be repealed.

Suggested timings for 60-minute lesson

Instructions	5 min
Preparation	15 min
Presentations (6 x 5 min)	30 min
Judges' verdict	5 min
Class vote	5 min

Hunt Ban Fact File

Hunted animals

Wild animals such as red foxes, brown hares, mink and deer were hunted with packs of hounds for sport in the UK for hundreds of years.

The debate usually focuses on foxhunting, as it is, or was, the most common type of hunting.

Hunting with hounds continues to be a controversial issue. Followers of hunting call it a 'country sport', while opponents refer to it as a 'bloodsport'

Fox hunting

Fox hunting used to involve the tracking, chasing and killing of a fox, by trained foxhounds, and a group of followers led by a master of foxhounds, who followed the hounds on foot or horseback. Hares, deer and mink were hunted in a similar way for sport with packs of hounds.

Fox hunting with hounds had existed for 400 years and was developed as a means of entertainment for the aristocracy and landed gentry. Today there are 186 packs recognised by the Master of Foxhounds Association across Britain.

Hunting with hounds was banned in Scotland in 2004 and in England and Wales in 2006. Before the ban, around 10,000 cubs and 12,000 adult foxes were killed for sport each year. Fox hunting continues in a modified form (see The Hunting Act below).

Other types of hunting

Before the ban there were three registered staghound packs in the Devon and Somerset area. They killed about 160 red deer each year.

There were about a hundred registered packs of hounds (beagles, bassets and harriers) that hunted hares. Hare hunts killed about 1,650 hares a season. There were some 24 registered hare coursing clubs, which killed about 250 hares annually.

The Hunting Act

In 2005 the Hunting Act, passed by the Labour government, made it illegal to hunt foxes, deer, hares and mink, for sport with packs of dogs. This means that hunts cannot encourage a pack of hounds to chase these animals and then rip them to pieces. Hare coursing was also banned.

Under the terms of the Hunting Act, which covers England and Wales, a person "commits an offence if he hunts a wild mammal with a dog, unless his hunting is exempt."

Hunts in England and Wales are still allowed to send two hounds into a wood to 'flush' a fox into the open so that he or she can be shot. A similar act was passed in Scotland in 2002, but in that case hunts are allowed to send a pack of hounds to 'flush out' a fox.

If the fox tries to seek safety underground, 'terriermen' can 'dig out' a fox who has 'gone to ground'.

When the Conservative Government came to power in May 2015 they promised to give MPs a free vote on repealing the Hunting Act.



Red fox



Red deer



Brown hare



North American mink



Hunt Ban Fact File

Public opinion poll

YouGov poll, 2015

- 51% support the hunt ban
- 33% oppose the hunt ban
- 16% don't know

Ipsos MORI poll for the League Against Cruel Sports, 2014

- 80% think that fox hunting should remain illegal
- 86% think stag hunting should remain illegal
- 88% think hare hunting/coursing should remain illegal

Hunt ban versus repeal of the act

Against the hunt ban

Cruel?

Hunting with hounds is the most humane way of managing the populations of wild animals. At the end of the chase, the fox, hare, mink or deer will either be killed outright or will escape unhurt. Alternative methods such as shooting and trapping are more cruel.

Necessary?

Foxes kill lambs, chickens and other livestock. Hares eat crops, mink eat fish and deer damage trees. These pest species need to be controlled as they have no natural predators.

Whose rights?

The hunt ban is an infringement of people's civil liberties and personal freedom.

Democracy?

The majority of the public do not have a right to force their views on a minority of hunt supporters.

For the hunt ban

Cruel?

Hunting with hounds was cruel and barbaric – wild animals were chased for miles until they were exhausted. When they were eventually caught, foxes and hares would be ripped to pieces by the hounds.

Necessary?

Hunting is totally unnecessary. Most farmers do not consider foxes, hares, mink or deer to be a problem.

Whose rights?

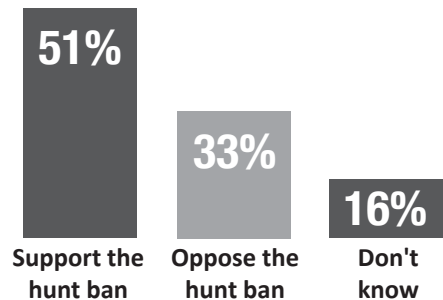
Foxes, deer, hares and mink are sentient animals that have a right not to be treated cruelly and killed for people's enjoyment.

Democracy?

Opinion polls have consistently shown that an overwhelming majority of the general public are opposed to the Hunt Ban being repealed.

Public opinion 2015

Do you support or oppose the hunt ban?



YouGov opinion poll Jan 2015

Quotations

I have always been a strong supporter of country sports. It is my firm belief that people should have the freedom to hunt . . . A Conservative Government will give Parliament the opportunity to repeal the Hunting Act on a free vote, with a government Bill in government time.

Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron, March 2015

Being a vet teaches you above all that what we share most with other animals is the ability to experience fear, pain and suffering. Hunting ensured that foxes, deer, mink and hares endured all three – and purely in the name of human entertainment. Long may such inexcusable cruelty be outlawed.

Emma Milne, veterinary surgeon, BVSc MRCVS.



Role Cards (Level: Basic)

Groups that support the hunt ban

Hunt Saboteurs Alliance (HSA)

Role card : basic

Facts:

- We go out into the countryside to save foxes, hares, deer and mink by stopping the hunt from catching and killing the hunted animals.
- The HSA uses peaceful non-violent methods such as blowing hunting horns to distract the hounds and spraying strong smelling liquids to mask the foxes' scent.
- We film the hunt to gather evidence in case they break the law.

Beliefs:

- Killing animals for sport is morally wrong. This gives us the right to intervene peacefully to protect our wildlife from such cruelty.
- Hunting is unsporting. 30 riders, 40 hounds and several gangs of terriermen with dogs against one fox, hare, mink or stag is not fair.

Local anti-hunt residents

Role card : basic

Facts:

- In a public opinion poll in 2014, eight out of 10 people (80%) said that they support the ban on fox hunting.*
- Hounds frequently kill people's pet cats when the hunt rampages across the countryside.
- Free-range chickens can be protected from predation by keeping them in a fox-proof fenced enclosure.

Beliefs:

- We don't want hunting in our countryside. We should have a right to say how our local wildlife is treated.
- Hunting is totally unnecessary. Most local farmers in our area do not consider foxes, hares, mink or deer to be a problem.
- Hunts are a local menace because they can't control their hounds, who often run all over the local roads and across people's gardens.

(* Ipsos MORI poll for the League Against Cruel Sports, 2014)

Role Cards (Level: Basic)

Groups that support the hunt ban (cont.)

Wildlife scientists

Role card : basic

Facts:

- Studies have shown that foxes in fact kill very few lambs, poultry and 'game' birds. For example, less than 1% of annual lamb losses can be directly attributed to foxes.
- Foxes, hares, mink and deer are mammals just like dogs and cats, who we know are capable of feeling pain and mental distress when they are hunted.
- There is no scientific evidence to show that hunting with hounds 'controls' the number of foxes, hare, mink or deer.
- The majority of wildlife scientists and animal welfare organisations are opposed to the reintroduction of hunting.

Beliefs:

- There is plenty of scientific evidence to show that hunting with hounds is cruel, ineffective and totally unnecessary.

Groups that oppose the hunt ban

Countryside Association

Role card : basic

Facts:

- Only two in five people (40%) believe that hunting should remain a criminal offence.*
- More foxes are currently being killed by hunts under the Hunting Act, than before the legislation came into force.

Beliefs:

- Hunting is an important traditional rural pastime. It helps to bind the community together, and local people love watching and taking part in the hunt.
- It's a question of civil liberties. People should have a right to go hunting if that's what they want to do.
- The Hunting Act does not work. More foxes are being killed, no hunts have closed down and just as many people follow the hunt today as they did before the ban.

(* Research carried out by ORB for the Countryside Alliance, is based on interviews with 2,058 people carried out in July 2015)

Role Cards (Level: Basic)

Groups that oppose the hunt ban

The local hunt

Role card : basic

Facts:

- The local hunt employs lots of people in the countryside. People work in the stables and the kennels looking after the horses and the hounds. They also pay to repair fences and maintain the woods where foxes live.
- Hunting is an important traditional rural pastime that country people have been practising for centuries.

Beliefs:

- Foxes have no morals – they are cunning and will kill anything. If they get into a chicken coop, they will kill all the chickens they can find.
- The hunt provides a service to farmers by keeping down the populations of pest species such as foxes, hares and deer.
- We help to keep the populations of foxes, deer and hares strong and healthy by killing the older and weaker animals.

Pro-hunt farmer

Role card : basic

Facts:

- Foxes kill lambs, chickens and other livestock. Hares eat crops, mink take fish and deer damage trees.
- Wild animals such as foxes, mink and deer have no natural predators.
- The hunt saboteurs often trespass over farmland during their hunt protests.

Beliefs:

- Pest species such as foxes, hares and deer have to be culled to protect farmers' livelihoods.
- The government should repeal the Hunt Ban and replace it with a law to stop the Hunt Saboteurs who are a menace because they trespass on our farmland, damage crops and interfere with our sport.
- Most people who are against hunting live in towns and cities - these urban 'townies' don't understand the ways of the countryside.

Role Cards (Level: Intermediate)

Groups that support the hunt ban

Hunt Saboteurs Alliance (HSA)

Role card : Intermediate

Facts:

- We go out into the countryside to try to save foxes, hares, deer and mink by stopping the hunt from catching and killing the hunted animals.
- The HSA uses peaceful non-violent methods such as blowing hunting horns and using voice calls to distract the hounds and spraying strong smelling liquids to mask the fox's scent.
- Hunts frequently flout the Hunting Act and break the law by allowing the hounds to chase the fox and savage the hunted fox to death.

Beliefs:

- Killing animals for sport is morally wrong. We have the right to intervene peacefully to protect wildlife from such cruelty.
- The Hunting Act is not perfect as it still allows foxes to be killed. Rather than being repealed it should be enforced properly and further strengthened to stop hunts killing foxes.
- Hunting with hounds in the traditional way was cruel and barbaric – terrified wild animals such as foxes, hares and deer were chased for miles until they were exhausted. When they were eventually caught, they would be ripped to pieces by the hounds.

Local anti-hunt residents

Role card : Intermediate

Facts:

- A public opinion poll in 2014 indicated that 80% of people supported the ban on fox hunting. The number in favour of keeping hare hunting and stag hunting illegal were even greater at 85% and 88% respectively.*
- Drag hunting is where riders and hounds follow a scent trail that has been laid (dragged) over a course before the day's hunting.
- Free-range chickens can be protected from predation by keeping them in a fox-proof fenced enclosure.

Beliefs:

- A majority of the general public supports the hunt ban. In a democracy the government should listen to the wishes of the majority.
- We don't want hunting in our countryside. We should have a right to say how our local wildlife is treated.
- Hunting is totally unnecessary. Most local farmers in our area do not consider foxes, hares, mink or deer to be a problem.
- It is not necessary to kill animals in order to have an enjoyable ride across the countryside. Drag hunting is a perfectly good alternative to hunting. Local runners would be more than happy to lay a false trail for the hunt to follow.

(* Ipsos MORI poll for the League Against Cruel Sports, 2014)

Role Cards (Level: Intermediate)

Groups that support the hunt ban

Wildlife scientists

Role card : Intermediate

Facts:

- Studies have shown that foxes kill very few lambs, poultry and 'game' birds. For example, less than 1% of annual lamb losses can be directly attributed to foxes.
- Hunting in the 'traditional' way involved chasing terrified foxes and hares for miles until they were exhausted. When they were eventually caught, the animals were ripped to pieces by the hounds.
- There is no evidence to show that hunting with hounds 'controls' the prey species - whether it be the fox, hare, mink or stag population.
- Ecologists have shown that wild fox populations are self-regulating - they control their own numbers through social factors and territorial behaviour.
- The majority of wildlife scientists and animal welfare organisations are opposed to the reintroduction of hunting with hounds.
- Many farms benefit from the presence of foxes who kill rabbits, which in turn do a lot of crop damage. It is estimated that just one fox can save a crop farmer £900 a year.

Beliefs:

- There is ample scientific evidence that hunting with hounds is cruel, ineffective and totally unnecessary.
- In summary, hunting with hounds cannot be justified on scientific grounds.

Role Cards (Level: Intermediate)

Groups that oppose the hunt ban

Countryside Association

Role card : Intermediate

Facts:

- In 2002 over 400,000 people marched through London to protest against the Hunting Act and in support of hunting. This was the biggest civil liberties protest in modern British history.
- According to an opinion poll in 2015, only two out of five people (40%) believe that hunting should remain a criminal offence.*
- More foxes are currently being killed by hunts under the Hunting Act, than before the legislation came into force in 2006.

Beliefs:

- The Labour government passed the Hunting Act because of class prejudice. They think that hunting is a rich person's sport – it is not; lots of ordinary people enjoy going hunting.
- The Hunting Act oppresses rural people's civil liberties. People in the countryside should have a right to go hunting if they want to.
- The Hunting Act does not work. More foxes are being killed, no hunts have closed down and just as many people follow the hunt today as they did before the ban.
- Hunting is an important traditional rural pastime. It helps to bind the community together and local people love watching and taking part in the hunt.

(* Research carried out by ORB for the Countryside Alliance, is based on interviews with 2,058 people carried out in July 2015)

The local hunt

Role card : Intermediate

Facts:

- The local hunt employs lots of people in the countryside. People work in the stables and kennels looking after the horses and the hounds.
- Shooting a running wild animal is difficult. Foxes that are shot are often only wounded and suffer terribly as they may run off or retreat underground to die a slow, painful death.
- Since the Hunting Act was introduced, more foxes are being shot rather than being hunted in the traditional way with hounds.

Beliefs:

- The hunt provides a valuable service to farmers by controlling the populations of pest species such as foxes, hares, mink and deer.
- We have a responsibility to manage wild animal species such as fox, hare, mink or deer as they have no natural predators.
- The Hunting Act does not protect wild animals from suffering. More foxes are being shot since the hunt ban, which is less humane than being killed by hounds.
- Hunting with hounds is the most humane way of controlling the populations of wild animals. At the end of the chase, the fox, hare, mink or deer will either be killed outright or will escape unhurt.

Role Cards (Level: Intermediate)

Groups that oppose the hunt ban

Pro-hunt farmer

Role card : Intermediate

Facts:

- Foxes kill lambs, chickens and other livestock. Hares eat crops, mink take fish and deer damage trees.
- Wild animals such as foxes, mink and deer have no natural predators.

Beliefs:

- Foxes have no morals – they are cunning opportunists and will kill anything. If they get into a chicken coop they will kill all the chickens they can find.
- Wild species such as foxes, hares and deer are pests that have to be culled to protect farmers' livelihoods.
- The Hunting Act makes it difficult for farmers to protect their livestock.
- Farmers welcome the hunt onto their land because it provides a service to them by keeping the populations of pest species such as foxes, hares and deer under control.
- The government should repeal the Hunt Ban and replace it with a law to stop the Hunt Saboteurs who are a menace because they trespass on our farmland, damaging crops, frightening livestock and interfere with our sport.
- Most people who are against hunting live in towns and cities – these urban 'townies' don't understand the ways of the countryside.

Role Cards (Level: Advanced)

Groups that support the hunt ban

Hunt Saboteurs Alliance (HSA)

Role card : Advanced

Facts:

- We intervene on the hunting field to save foxes, hares, deer and mink by stopping the hunt from catching and killing their quarry.
- The HSA uses peaceful non-violent direct action methods such as blowing hunting horns and voice calls to distract the hounds and spraying strong smelling liquids to mask the fox's scent.
- We often face violence from hunt supporters. Two hunt saboteurs have been killed in the process of campaigning against hunting.
- Hunts frequently flout the Hunting Act and break the law by allowing the hounds to chase the fox and savage the hunted fox to death.
- We monitor hunts and record video footage to use as evidence for a prosecution in the event that the hunt breaks the law.

Beliefs:

- Hunting with hounds in the traditional way was cruel and barbaric – terrified wild animals such as foxes, hares and deer were chased for miles until they were exhausted. When they were eventually caught, they were ripped to pieces by the hounds.
- Hunting is morally unacceptable in a civilized society as well as being illegal. We have the right to trespass on private land so we can intervene peacefully to protect our wildlife from cruelty.
- Hunting is unsporting. 30 riders, 40 hounds and several gangs of terriermen with dogs against one fox, hare, mink or stag is not fair.
- The Hunting Act is not perfect as foxes are still being hunted and killed. Rather than being repealed, it should be enforced properly and further strengthened to stop hunts killing foxes and other wild animals.

Local anti-hunt residents

Role card : Advanced

Facts:

- On average, one person every week is prosecuted under the Hunting Act.
- A public opinion poll in 2014 indicated that 80% of people supported the ban on fox hunting. The number in favour of keeping hare hunting and stag hunting illegal were even greater at 85% and 88% respectively.*
- Drag hunting is where riders and hounds follow a scent trail that has been laid (dragged) over a course before the day's hunting.
- Free-range chickens can be protected from predation by keeping them in a fox-proof fenced enclosure.

Beliefs:

- A majority of the general public supports the hunt ban. In a democracy the government should listen to the wishes of the majority.
- Foxes do not need to be controlled. Most of the local farmers do not consider the fox to be a problem.
- The Hunting Act works – people are being prosecuted under the Hunting Act, a piece of legislation that the hunters say 'isn't working'.
- The people in our area who go hunting do so simply for fun. It has more to do with 'social climbing' than controlling foxes. People just want 'to be seen out with the hunt'.
- Hunts are a local menace because they can't control their hounds, which often run all over the local roads and across people's gardens. As well as causing damage, they have been known to kill people's pet cats.
- It is not necessary to kill animals in order to have an enjoyable ride across the countryside. Drag hunting is a perfectly good alternative to hunting. Local runners would be more than happy to lay a false trail for the hunt to follow.

(* Ipsos MORI poll for the League Against Cruel Sports, 2014)

Role Cards (Level: Advanced)

Groups that support the hunt ban

Role card : Advanced

Wildlife scientists

Facts:

- The red fox and the domestic dog are both members of the Canid family of mammals. All canids are intelligent, sensitive animals who are capable of suffering fear and mental distress when being chased and feeling pain when being torn apart by hounds.
- There is no scientific evidence to indicate that hunting with hounds 'controls' the prey species - whether it be the fox, hare, mink or stag population.
- Ecologists have shown that wild fox populations are self-regulating - they control their own numbers through social factors and territorial behaviour.
- Studies have shown lamb mortality due to fox predation to be statistically insignificant. Most lambs eaten by foxes are 'carrion' – they have already died as a result of disease or exposure. For example, less than 1% of annual lamb losses can be directly attributed to foxes.
- According to the Veterinary Record, foxes are responsible for only 0.5% of poultry flock losses. This is an economically insignificant figure.
- Many farms benefit from the presence of foxes who kill rabbits, which in turn do a lot of crop damage. It is estimated that just one fox can save a crop farmer £900 a year.

Beliefs:

- About one in five of all newborn lambs die within a few days of birth, mostly from disease, exposure or malnutrition. The small loss due to fox predation is insignificant in the context of this high mortality rate due to poor animal husbandry.
- There is ample scientific evidence that hunting with hounds is inhumane, ineffective and totally unnecessary.
- In summary, hunting with hounds cannot be justified on scientific grounds.

Role Cards (Level: Advanced)

Groups that oppose the hunt ban

Countryside Association

Role card : Advanced

Facts:

- In 2002 over 400,000 people marched through London to protest against the Hunting Act and in support of hunting. This was the biggest civil liberties protest in modern British history.
- According to an opinion poll in 2015, only two out of five people (40%) believe that hunting should remain a criminal offence.*
- More foxes are currently being killed by hunts under the Hunting Act, than before the legislation came into force.

Beliefs:

- The Labour government passed the Hunting Act because of class prejudice. They, like many people, believe wrongly that hunting is a rich person's sport – it is not; in fact lots of ordinary country people follow the hunt.
- The Hunting Act does not work. No hunts have closed down and just as many people go hunting today as they did before the ban.
- The hunt ban is an infringement of people's civil liberties and personal freedom. People in the countryside should have a right to go hunting if they want to.
- Many people are sentimental about foxes. Wild mammals do not feel fear in the same way as humans do. Hunting is totally natural to them.
- Hunting is an important traditional rural pastime. It helps to bind the community together and local people love watching and taking part in the hunt.
- The Hunting Act should be repealed – it's bad for the rural economy, bad for rural communities, bad for animal welfare and a waste of police resources.
- If you eat meat, you have no right to be against hunting. Hunted foxes have a better life than factory farmed animals, so meat eaters who oppose hunting are hypocritical.

(* Research carried out by ORB for the Countryside Alliance, is based on interviews with 2,058 people carried out in July 2015)

Pro-hunt farmer

Role card : Advanced

Facts:

- Foxes kill lambs, chickens and other livestock. Hares eat crops, mink take fish and deer damage trees.
- Wild animals such as foxes, mink and deer have no natural predators.

Beliefs:

- The fox is a ruthless predator, one capable of inflicting great damage to the farmer.
- Foxes have no morals – they are cunning opportunists and will kill anything. If they get into a chicken coop, they will kill all the chickens.
- Pest species such as foxes, hares and deer have to be culled to protect farmers' livestock and crops.
- Farmers welcome the hunt onto their land because it provides a service to them by keeping the populations of pest species such as foxes, hares and deer under control.
- Hunting with hounds is the most humane and effective way of controlling the populations of vermin such as foxes, hares, mink and deer.
- The Hunting Act makes it difficult for farmers to protect their livestock.
- The government should repeal the Hunt Ban and replace it with a law to stop the Hunt Saboteurs who are a menace because they trespass on our farmland damaging crops and interfering with our sport.
- Most people who are against hunting live in towns and cities – these urban 'townies' don't understand the ways of the countryside.
- Many people are only against hunting because of class prejudice - they think that only 'posh' people 'ride to hound'. In fact all sorts of people including farmers enjoy hunting.
- Hunting is good for wildlife – farmers conserve the woods where foxes live to ensure that there are enough animals to hunt each year.

Role Cards (Level: Advanced)

Groups that oppose the hunt ban

The local hunt

Role card : Advanced

Facts:

- The local hunt employs lots of people in the countryside. People work in the stables and the kennels looking after the horses and the hounds. The hunt also pay for the repair of fences and to maintain the woods where foxes live.
- Shooting a running wild animal is difficult. Foxes that are shot are often only wounded and suffer terribly as they may run off or retreat underground to die a slow, painful death.
- Since the Hunting Act was introduced more foxes are being shot rather than being hunted in the traditional way with hounds.

Beliefs:

- Hunting is ingrained in rural life. Hunt point-to-point races, puppy shows, supporters' clubs – all help to bring the rural community together.
- Fox numbers have always been controlled by man but in the past were also killed by larger predators, such as wolves that are now extinct.
- The hunt provides a valuable service to farmers by keeping the populations of pest species such as foxes, hares, mink and deer under control.
- We have a responsibility to manage wild animal species such as fox, hare, mink or deer as they have no natural predators. Hunting helps to keep their populations healthy and at an acceptable level.
- Hunting with hounds is the most humane way of controlling the populations of wild animals. At the end of the chase, the fox, hare, mink or deer will either be killed outright or will escape unhurt.
- The Hunting Act does not protect wild animals from unnecessary suffering. More foxes are being shot since the hunt ban, which is less humane than being killed by hounds.
- Properly conducted hunting is a natural and humane method of wildlife management. A lack of management threatens vulnerable populations, biodiversity, habitat conservation and the production of food.

Keep the ban!



**Hunt Saboteurs
Alliance (HSA)**

**Hunt Saboteurs
Alliance (HSA)**



Keep the ban!

Keep the ban!



**Local residents
against the
hunt**

**Local residents
against the
hunt**



Keep the ban!

Keep the ban!



**Wildlife
scientists**

**Wildlife
scientists**



Keep the ban!

Repeal the ban!



**Counttryside
Association**

**Counttryside
Association**



Repeal the ban!

Repeal the ban!



**Local
fox hunt**

**Local
fox hunt**



Repeal the ban!

Repeal the ban!



**Pro-hunt
farmer**

**Pro-hunt
farmer**



Repeal the ban!



Panel of judges

Panel of judges



Judges' score card



	Groups that support the hunt ban			Groups that oppose the hunt ban		
	Hunt Saboteurs	Local residents	Wildlife scientists	Countryside Alliance	Local hunt	Pro-hunt farmers
Imagination and creativity						
Effectiveness (Power of persuasion)						
Entertainment value						
Factual content						
Total score						

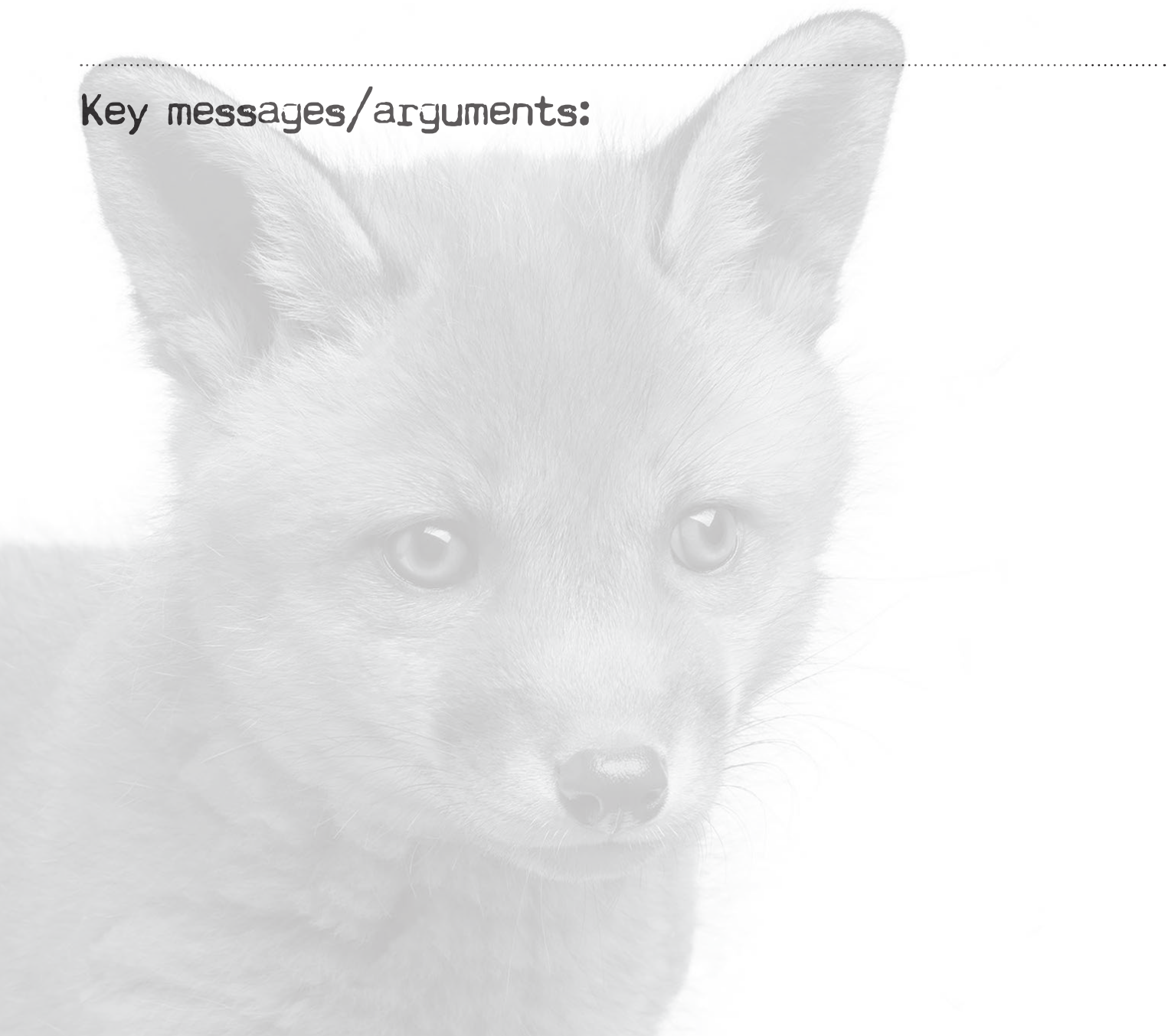
Score up to five points for each of the four categories listed on the left: imagination and creativity, effectiveness, entertainment value and factual content. Total score will therefore be out of 20.

Campaign to keep the hunt ban

1

Target groups:

Key messages/arguments:



Methods and tactics:

Slogan:



Presentation:

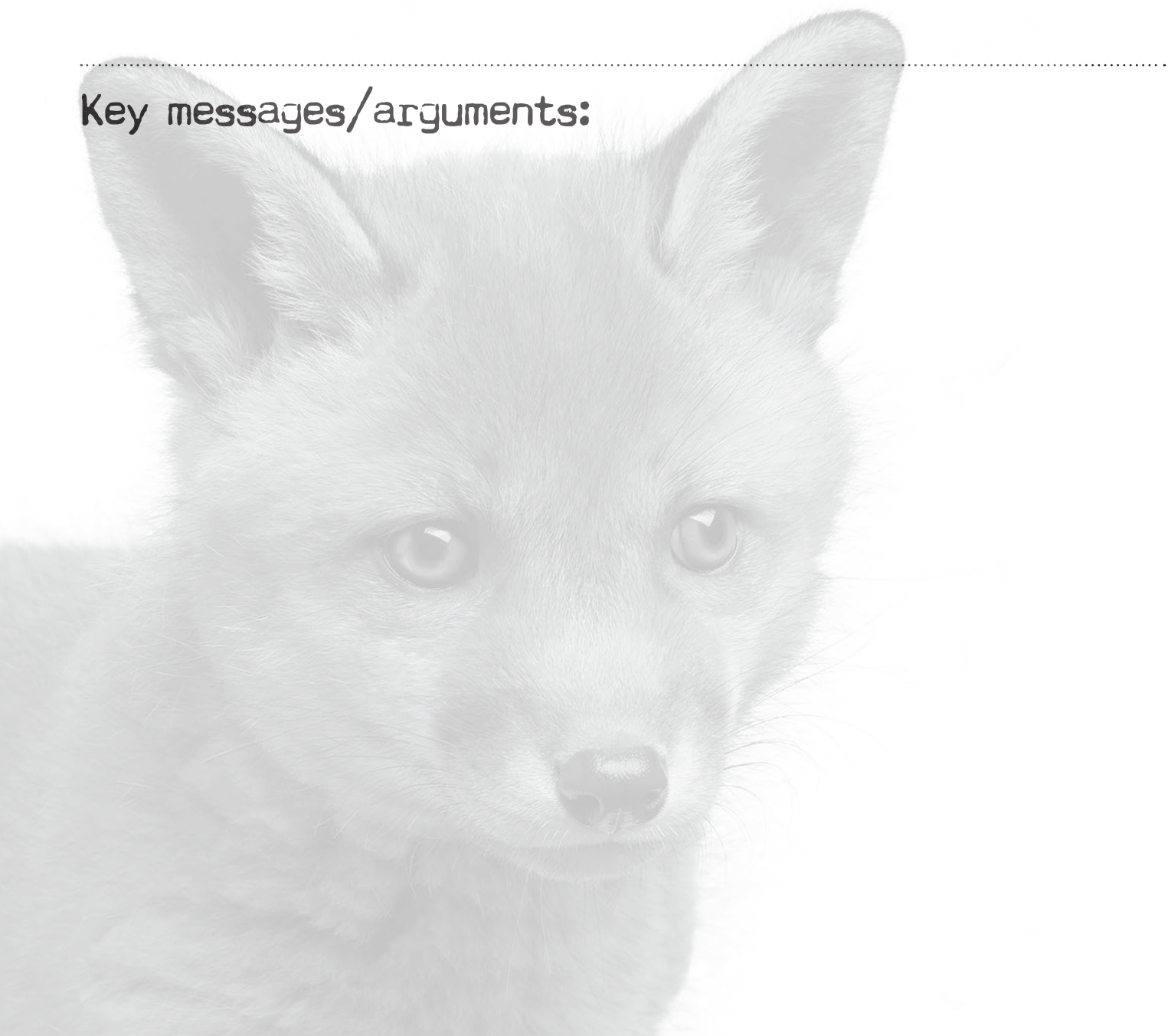


Campaign against the hunt ban

1

Target groups:

Key messages/arguments:



Methods and tactics:

Slogan:



Presentation:

