

## Tatton Park's Deer Herds



Tatton Park is home to two herds of wild deer: Red and Fallow. It is fascinating to watch them throughout the year and see the changes they experience during that time.

**Here are some facts about our deer and a few fun activities for you to try at home or in the classroom.**

- Tatton has two species of deer: Red and Fallow
- Red Deer are much larger and a russet colour. Fallow are smaller, lighter in colour and speckled
- Tatton's Deer Park was created by Royal Charter in 1290
- The deer have over 1,000 acres of grassland in which to roam freely
- The deer have a 'sanctuary' within the park where there is no public access
- There are 400 adult deer and up to 350 young deer present in the park
- Deer usually give birth to their single young in June
- A mature Red deer stag can weigh well in excess of 300lbs (pounds)
- Stags and Bucks 'cast' (shed/lose) their antlers every year in the spring
- Deer are browsing animals – they eat grass and tree leaves
- The rut (breeding season) starts in October and is triggered predominantly by the length of daylight
- During the rut, Stags 'roar' and Bucks 'belch'!
- At Tatton, over £10,000 is spent on supplementary winter feed each year
- During the winter, the Rangers feed the deer about 12 tonnes of carrots each week



**Activity 1: Deer Quiz**

Here are some questions about Tatton’s deer herd – can you answer them all? You will need to use the facts above and do something with the information to get the answer.

**1) How many years ago was the Royal Charter?**

**2) How many deer are there in the park in total?**

**3) How much does an adult Red deer weigh in kilograms? HINT: Use the conversion chart below and remember that once you have grams, you need to convert them into kilograms**

1 pound	454 grams
2 pounds	908 grams
10 pounds	4540 grams
50 pounds	22,700 grams
100 pounds	45,400 grams

**Activity 2: Deer Crafts**

Have a go at making a deer mask. Decide if you will make a Red or Fallow deer and choose your colours accordingly. We have included some pictures below to help.

**Make a Deer Mask**

- a) Use a paper plate to make the face of the deer. Look at pictures of deer in books or on the Internet to get the design and colours right. Make sure you draw some eye holes on. If you don’t have a paper plate, use a piece of card and draw around a dinner plate in pencil
- b) Ask an adult for help cutting out the eye holes!
- c) Now on a new piece of card, draw around your hand twice. You can draw around in pencil, or dip your hand in paint and press it onto the card. You could draw around an adult’s hand, if you would like your deer to have bigger antlers!
- d) Cut out the antlers, asking for an adult’s help if you need it
- e) Stick the antlers onto the top edge of the plate
- f) Then add a lollipop stick to the bottom to act as a handle, or ask an adult to attach elastic



Red Deer



Fallow Deer

