



Learning in your forest

Discover your forest

with the Forestry Commission and the Children's University

What is the name of the forest you are visiting?

Welcome to the forest!

The woodland you have chosen to visit today is looked after by the Forestry Commission. It is a working forest, growing trees for timber. It also provides a great place for people to enjoy and a home for lots of wildlife.

Fill in this activity sheet as you walk around and enjoy the forest. Learn how a well-managed forest works, and how it can be so much more than simply a place to grow trees.

Tip: Before you set off, have a quick look through these sheets, so you will know what you are looking out for. You might also find a small collecting bag is handy.



The FC logo at the top of this page shows 2 trees. Draw the logo in the box and then count how many times you see it as you walk around the site.

**Try
this...**

My FC logo drawing

I saw the FC logo
times today

Broadleaves and Conifers

The FC logo shows the two main types of tree the Forestry Commission grow: **Broadleaves** and **Conifers**.

Use the words below to fill in the blanks and learn the difference between the two tree types.

needle
cones
lose
keep

Look around the forest you are in. Are the trees mostly conifers or broadleaves, or a mixture?



Broadleaved trees have flat leaves. Most are deciduous, which means they _____ their leaves in winter. Oak and beech are examples of broadleaved trees.

Coniferous trees have _____ shaped leaves. Most are evergreen, meaning that they _____ them throughout the year. Conifers also have _____. Examples of coniferous trees are Scots pine and Douglas fir.



So now you know a little bit about the Forestry Commission. Let's continue your journey of discovery by looking at the Life Cycle of a Tree in one of our forests...



Seeds

All trees grow from a seed.

As you walk see how many different types of seeds you can collect. Can you find seeds from a broadleaved tree and a coniferous tree? Think about how the seeds are spread. Can you find seeds that are spread in different ways, e.g. by gravity, wind or animals?

Seeds are also important food for wildlife. Look up into the tree tops for an animal or bird which either eats or collects seeds, and draw a picture of it here.

Try
this...

Draw an animal or bird which
collects seeds

In some FC woodlands, the trees grow from seeds which **germinate naturally** in the ground. In others, they are **planted by hand** as seedlings / small saplings. Look for tiny new trees growing on the forest floor.

Tick here when you find some

Seed → Sapling

As you walk around the forest, you may see areas of new tree planting. These areas are usually protected by **tree guards** or **fencing**.

What large forest animal do you think the young trees particularly need protecting from? (Tick)

- Deer Dogs Horses



Wildlife

Areas of new woodland planting are good places to see butterflies, because they are often open and sunny. The Forestry Commission also encourages butterflies elsewhere by creating wide verges and open spaces alongside forest roads.

As the trees begin to grow, they provide homes (habitats) for all sorts of other animals, which leave clues to show where they have been:

Tick below if you see any of the following animal clues or habitat types on your walk. You may like to photograph your findings:



Animal clues

- Feathers or fur
- Droppings (poo)
- Footprints
- Nests or burrows
- Egg shells
- Ant hills

Habitats

- Pond
- Open grassy glades
- Dense woodland
- Wide spaced trees
- Mud
- Boggy area

Sapling → Mature tree

As the young trees grow, some are removed (**thinned**) at regular intervals to allow the others to put on **girth** (grow fat trunks!).

Wildlife

When trees are thinned, the '**brash**' (the cut twigs and branches) is usually left on the forest floor. The brash provides a home for small creatures, some of which eat it and help turn it into soil.



Try this...

Draw a forest animal that might like to hibernate or shelter in a pile of brash:

Now find a fallen branch, stump or flat stone to look under (somewhere moist and shady works best). What did you find living there?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Don't forget to replace the stump/stone when you have finished!



People

The Forestry Commission like people to come and enjoy the woodlands they manage.

Think of some ways you have seen people using and enjoying the forest today. Don't forget to include yourself!

.....
.....
.....
.....

Mature tree → Seed

As the trees reach maturity, they begin to produce seeds, so completing their life cycle.

Look at the seeds you have collected on your walk. Do you know what any of them are called, or what sort of tree they come from?

Do you know how they are dispersed (spread)?

Seed/Tree:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Dispersed/spread by:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....



Trees and timber

Eventually, the growing trees are harvested and taken to the sawmill, where they are cut up to make timber for building, fencing, woodfuel and lots of other things.

Can you think of three things made from timber that you have seen during your visit to the forest today?

1.
2.
3.

Now think of three things you have used in the last week that are made from wood?

1.
2.
3.



Timber - how you can help

Sustainably managed forests

Remember to look out for the FSC logo whenever you buy anything made from wood as it means it has come from a sustainably managed forest, like the one you are visiting now.



Forestry Commission
England

FSC stands for Forest Stewardship Council.

This is a very important system that checks whether timber producing forests around the world are being looked after carefully and sustainably, so they will be here for future generations of people and wildlife to enjoy.

All Forestry Commission forests are FSC certified.



Name or draw things you have seen in the forest today which begins with the letters F, S and C:

Well done!

Now you need to scan (or photograph) and email pages 1 and 5 of this workbook to kate.hinchley@forestry.gsi.gov.uk, with your name and age, and the name of the forest you visited, so that we can send you a stamp for your CU passport.

Hopefully, you have enjoyed learning about how the forest is cared for, and about how important sustainably managed forests are for wildlife, people and timber.

If you want to learn more about the forest, and earn more CU hours at the same time, go back to our website (www.forestry.gov.uk/england-learning) and find our 'CU Follow-up Activities'.

