

Forests for the Future

Suitable for Years 3-6, March to November

This programme helps to explore the global issues of climate change and sustainable development, with a focus on the role trees and forests can play. It encourages the students to suggest positive action that they and other people can take.

Key Concepts

Sustainable development, climate change, citizenship and positive action, photosynthesis

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students should be able to:

- Understand that rising carbon dioxide levels are causing the warming of the world's climate
- Recognise that growing trees is one way of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
- Explain the process of photosynthesis and how this results in carbon being stored in the wood
- Suggest ways in which people can help both locally and globally

Before you come

Q What is climate change?

Q Is climate change a new process? How do you know?

Programme Outline

| Learning objectives | Activity |
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| To introduce the concept of climate change To assess students prior knowledge | Introduction What is climate change? And what may climate change look like? Using a globe and the children's knowledge of our use of fossil fuels, we look at the global picture of climate change. |
| To introduce trees as one way of removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere To explore the process of carbon capture and storage | Capturing carbon An interactive role play activity that helps students to explore how plants use carbon dioxide during the process of photosynthesis. Introduces the concept of trees as a carbon store. |
| To explore how different forest scenarios can increase or decrease | Moving carbon A game that explores the carbon dioxide cycle, how it has been |

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| climate change | affected by human activity and what we can do to achieve a better balance. Considers the impacts of deforestation and sustainably managed forests. |
| To discuss the global importance of sustainable forestry To be aware of positive action that people can take | <i>Treasure in the trees</i> Individually, students explore the 'treasure' hidden amongst the trees before sorting out the items they find. This activity explores the concept of sustainable forest management, FSC accredited wood, the benefits of wood products and the importance of wood fuel. It presents students with choices and positive action they can take to help. |

Self-guided activities

To complement this half-day programme, we recommend our Growing Green Activity Pack, particularly activity 9: Story of a tree's life

Year 5&6 – in addition, we recommend our **Forest for the Future** backpack.

These can be viewed at www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt-education

National Curriculum links

Plants (Year 3)

Identify and describe the functions of different parts of a flowering plant

Explore the requirements of plants for life and growth

Living things and their habitats

Year 4 – Human impact on environments, including deforestation