

Forests for the Future

Exploring Trees, forests and climate change

Suitable for Years 5 & 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 What is a fossil fuel? How many can you name?

Programme Outline

Learning objectives	Activity
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 climate change	<p><i>Moving carbon</i> A game that explores the carbon dioxide cycle, how it has been affected by human activity and what we can do to achieve a better balance. Considers the impacts of deforestation and sustainably managed forests.</p>
To discuss the global importance of sustainable forestry To be aware of positive action that people can take	<p><i>Forest for the Future</i> Using a series of multiple choice options, students plan, design and make a model of a forest that represents a sustainably managed woodland beneficial for climate change.</p>

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

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

National Curriculum links

Living things and their habitats

- Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things
- Explore examples of human impact (both positive and negative) on environments, for example, the negative effects of deforestation