



Using the map provided, follow the blue way-marked trail through the forest to answer the questions below.

1a. From the viewpoint we can see... (tick)

- Bassenthwaite Lake
- Derwentwater
- A clearfell site (an area where the trees have been cut down)
- Cockermouth
- Keswick
- The top of Scafell
- The top of Skiddaw
- Mostly conifer trees
- Mostly broadleaf (deciduous) trees

1b. What is your favourite part of the view and why?

1c. What is your least favourite part of the view and why?

Most children will probably say the clearfell site is their least favourite because it looks ugly. It is worth pointing out how many things we use come from trees so it is a necessary part of forestry. The viewpoint is a good place to mention to the group the reasons other than timber production for the forest being here, namely wildlife (provides shelter and food) and people (provides recreation and oxygen), as well as their role in mitigating against climate change due to the carbon dioxide they store.

2. Under the large tree, where the path leaves the road, there are many cones. Find one full cone and one cone that has been eaten by a red squirrel.

Squirrels will peel off the scales of cones to get to the seeds inside (see examples).

3a. Look at the fallen tree, which is lying across the stream on your right. What do you think made the holes?

Woodpeckers

3b. Why has the tree been left? (tick)

- It was too heavy to move
- It is a good habitat for insects
- So the squirrels can cross the stream safely

4. Look to your left. What colour is the ground and why?

On this section of the path, the ground to the left is mainly brown, with little plant life. These trees have not been thinned and do not allow light to penetrate to the forest floor.

Look to your right. What colour is the ground and why?

The trees on the right of the path have been thinned, allowing light and therefore plant growth on the forest floor.

5. The foresters haven't cut down trees on this site, so why are there trees on the ground?

Blown over the wind.

6. Which trees can you identify on the next stretch of path? Using the tree guide to help you, write the names of the trees you find below.

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7. Look to your left. There is a very large fallen tree. Is the root system... (tick)

- shallow and narrow
- deep and wide

Is the fallen tree a conifer or a broadleaf? Conifer

8. What kind of tree is growing in the middle of the stream, above the large rock?

Holly

9. This feature is 200 years old. What do you think this was used for in the past?

The sheepfold has been here since long before the forest was planted in 1919 and would have been used by hill farmers.

10. Look beyond the fence.

What do you see?

A dam

What was it used for?

To provide an energy source for a mining works below. The dammed water was used to drive a system of pumps. The dam was destroyed around 50 years ago when the system became outdated.

11. This site was felled in 2005. New trees are now growing.

Have these trees been planted or are they self-seeded (they have planted themselves)?

Stocked with douglas fir, spruce and larch.

It is worth mentioning the speed at which conifers grow compared to broadleaves.

Conifers increase in girth by around 3cm per year (Douglas fir increase their girth by a staggering 7cm per year), whilst broadleaves increase in girth by only 1-2cm per year (Oaks increase by 1.5cm per year). So, if you measure the girth of a tree roughly 1 metre above ground and divide this by the relevant number, you will have the approximate age of the tree. For example, a Douglas Fir measuring 105cm in girth 1m above ground will be roughly 15 years old, whereas an oak of the same size will be 70 years old.

12. Just before the gate, on the left, there is a large nest box. What do you think lives in it?

Barn owls