



#ForestryFriday

Key questions

Why are trees important for wildlife, human life and the environment?

Why do we need to look after trees?

Who is responsible for protecting trees?

Resources required

- Forestry England 'We are for the climate' Video
- The Tree by Neal Layton (online copy)

Instructions

Pupils start by sharing what they already know about trees which could include features, species and fun facts. What do we call trees that grow close together? A forest!

Trees have a role to play in supporting wildlife, the environment and human life. Pupils consider the role a tree plays in supporting wildlife and the environment (habitat, food, uses CO₂, produces oxygen) and human life (materials, greenspace, food). In a table with two columns and the headings: wildlife/environment and humans, record children's ideas as to how trees support or are useful to each of these groups.

Pupils can then consider what is threatening trees (humans, deforestation, natural disasters, disease) and what the impact could be for wildlife, human life and the environment. Record these in a new row of your table. What is the cause of these threats? Share with the class the [Forestry England video](#) to 1.14 and add to your chart any information which has not been added previously.

You could also...

Play the [Musical Trees game](#) (Pg18) to demonstrate what threats there are to woodland and the impact. Who can protect the trees? This discussion can empower pupils to understand they have a role as well as specialists such as farmers, forestry workers and gardeners. Finish watching [the video](#) from 1.14 to learn about who are looking after our forests.

Make it simpler

Pupils think about what makes a good home for us. List animals, birds and insects that live in trees. Consider why a tree makes a good home for them. You could share the book 'The Tree' by Neal Layton to encourage discussion about habitats and why we need to protect trees.

Make it harder

Pupils find out more about the Forest Stewardship Council assurance scheme which shows consumers when the product they are buying has come from sustainably grown wood. Why might it be important to buy products with this assurance? Is it better for the environment?

Find out more

[Farming, wildlife and your school grounds – PowerPoint and Activities](#)

[Life in and around an Ancient Tree - Poster](#)

[Using trees in our farming systems - Agroforestry](#)

[Environmental Arts – woodland based activities](#)

What do you think?

Do you think it is more important to plant new trees in the future, or look after the ones we have?

