

THE FOREST FRIENDLY SCHOOL PROJECT

Version 3: Updated June 2024

KEY STAGE 2/3 LESSON PLAN

Explore the links between the school and the forest environment and identify practical ways to reduce the school's environmental impact.

National Curriculum Links:

- Geography
- Education for Sustainable Development (& Global Citizenship)
- Learning for Sustainability



THE MISSION

- ✓ RESEARCH THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
- ✓ TEST YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY
- ✓ MAKE YOUR SCHOOL MORE FOREST-FRIENDLY!

WHAT TO DO

Ask pupils to:

- Watch the video '[What wood you choose?](#)'
- Split in to smaller groups and read the Resource Sheet (overleaf) and briefly discuss the work of FSC.
- Devise and conduct a simple questionnaire to determine current awareness levels of FSC within the school or amongst friends and family. Compare this with the national average.
- Explore the concept of a 'forest-friendly school' - a school that helps to protect forests by supporting the work of FSC.
- Use the Resource Sheet to inform their ideas about how schools can become more forest-friendly (explain that they'll be asked to create a short report that describes what they think a forest-friendly school should be like).

Plenary

Invite pupils to explain their ideas. Ask them to select any items from their plans that they feel could be achieved quickly and easily within their own school. Sort the other actions into similar categories (e.g. medium term goal, longterm goal). Create an action plan for one or more of the suggestions:

- Action
- Reason for action
- Start and end dates
- Stages
- Resources needed
- Names of people involved
- Success criteria

RESOURCE SHEET

What is FSC?

The Forest Stewardship Council is an organisation that works in lots of different countries around the world to protect forests.

FSC takes care of forests by making rules for the people who look after forests, and other businesses, to follow.

People and businesses can choose FSC-certified wood, paper and other forest-based products made with materials that support responsible forestry.

For more information, see the videos and 'What is FSC' lesson plan at uk.fsc.org/education.

Awareness of FSC

79% of people in the UK recognise the FSC logo. However, the figure increases to 90% amongst those aged 16-

24. Why do you think awareness is higher in the younger age group? What will forest-friendly schools do to improve awareness? (Source: FSC UK Consumer Survey 2024)

Forests in Danger

What are the main threats to forests? How are we linked to those threats by some of the things we buy? How should forest-friendly schools address these issues?

Sustainable Forestry

Lots of people find it difficult to understand that cutting down trees can be good for the environment. What do pupils need to know about the sustainable management of forests and the use of trees as a renewable resource?

Purchasing & Waste

Schools buy forest products such as wood, paper, books and magazines. Find out about the paper that your own school buys – How much does it use? Where does it come from? How much does it cost? Could it be replaced by FSC-certified paper?

Find out about other forest products that are consumed in your school e.g. books, magazines and wood. What can forest-friendly schools do to increase the purchase of FSC-certified products within the local community? What can they do to increase rates of recycling; cut waste and reduce consumption? Are there any items that should/should not be purchased by forest-friendly schools?

Enjoying Forests

Where are the forests and woodlands in your local area? How could your school make use of these wooded areas and encourage more people to enjoy the forest environment?

Curriculum

What do pupils need to know about forests and forestry? What's the best way to provide this knowledge? Are there any particular skills that should be developed in a forest-friendly school? What sorts of attitudes should forest-friendly schools promote?

THANK YOU

For questions and queries:

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