



What's going on this week?

Tree planting is a good solution to tackle climate change and protect biodiversity but planting trees in the wrong place can do more harm than good, experts at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew have explained. Scientists have outlined 10 rules for tree-planting, which they say must be a top priority for all nations this decade.

Main question:

How important is it to plant more trees?

Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster and talk about what we know already about trees. Are there many trees around where we live? Do we know why trees are important? Discuss how they provide oxygen for us all, are a material for tools and shelter and support wildlife.
- List the different places where we find trees, e.g. some gardens, forests, parks, rainforests etc.
- Explain that scientists have recently outlined rules for planting new trees. They believe this is important, as if trees are planted in the wrong place, they can do damage to the environment in other ways. Previously, it was thought by many that planting trees anywhere was always good for the environment and for us all.
- Read through the information about planting new trees found on the assembly resource. Are you surprised to hear that planting trees anywhere isn't always a good idea?
- Watch this week's useful video (link found overleaf), which explains what would happen if everyone in the world planted a tree. Do you think this would be a good idea? Talk about some of the different places where we live.

Reflection

As the biggest plants on the planet, trees give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilise the soil and give life to the world's wildlife. We should follow advice and guidance about the best way to protect and ensure the survival of this vital resource.



KS1 Focus

Question:

How do trees help us?

Listen, think, share

- What is a tree? Can you describe one? Create a list of some of the places you might have seen a tree e.g. in your local park, a wood, near where you live, in your garden.
- Think about the different types of tree you might find. Do you know the names of any of the different types of tree e.g. oak, elm, willow, sycamore?
- Explain that trees are very important and they help us. Look at resource 1, which shares some of the ways that trees help us. Can you think of any other ways they help us?
- It mentions that trees can be a natural playground. Have you ever used a tree as part of a game you were playing? Have you ever climbed a tree?
- Some people think trees are beautiful and enjoy looking at them or drawing/painting them or even using them to inspire their poetry or music. Do you enjoy trees in this way? Have you ever created a picture of a tree?
- Often, being near to trees can help people relax and feel calm. Have you ever noticed you feel this way? Have you ever closed your eyes near a tree and listened to the rustling leaves? Have you ever watched the light trickling through the branches? Have you taken a few deep breaths? If not, perhaps next time you pass a tree, you could try!

Reflection

There are many ways trees help us. From producing oxygen for us to breathe to providing us with a place to play and enjoy. We are thankful for our trees.



KS2 Focus

Question:

What would the world be like without trees?

Listen, think, share

- Trees can be found all around us. Sometimes we may not even notice them as we pass by!
- Think about a short journey you make regularly e.g. to school, to the park. How many trees do you pass on the way? Is it possible to count them or are there too many? What might your journey look like if the trees weren't there?
- Create a list of some of the ways trees help us e.g. they produce oxygen, provide shade and shelter, produce food, provide a home for insects, birds and other animals.
- Can you imagine what our world would be like without trees? How would it affect our lives? What do you think might happen to the planet?
- Look at resource 2, which considers what might happen if all of our trees disappeared. Discuss each and think about any other effects having no trees may have.
- Having no trees would have a devastating effect on our planet but it would also change how our world looked. How do trees play a part in your everyday life? Do you use them to play and climb? Do you enjoy looking at them?
- Many people think that trees have a positive effect on our mental health and well-being. Do you agree with this? Why?

Reflection

Trees provide our planet with many different things. Imagining a world without trees is quite scary but it can help us to understand the important role they play and ensure we protect and look after them.



KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Imagine you are in a forest or wood. You are going to create a setting description. Think about:

- What can you see? Light glistening through the dense canopy.
- What can you hear? Branches creaking softly, leaves rustling like a never-ending whisper.
- What can you smell? The damp, earthy ground and the sweet pine cones.

Make a collection of vocabulary and ideas before creating a paragraph to describe your forest setting. Try to use ambitious vocabulary and vary your punctuation and sentence openers.

Option 2: Have you ever come across a treehouse before? Perhaps you have seen one or played in one at a park or maybe you have read about one in a story or seen one on television? Design your very own tree house! Think about:

- Which tree will you use?
- What will you make your treehouse from?
- Will it have windows, a roof?
- What will the inside of your treehouse look like?
- How will you get in and out of your treehouse?
- What will you use your treehouse for?

You can be as inventive and as creative as you like!



KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Think about some of the trees in your local area. Do you know what they are called? One of the best ways to tell what type of tree it is, is from the shape and size of its leaves. Some are larger than others! Draw five leaves of different sizes.

- Can you point to the biggest?
- Which is the smallest?
- Can you order them largest to smallest?

We could try to measure the leaves.

- What might we use to measure them? Think about non-standard units such as multilink, pasta shapes, pencils, paperclips and standard units such as a ruler.

Measure the length of each leaf and record it.

Option 2: Look at the words 'deciduous' and 'evergreen'. Do you know what they mean? We can use these words to describe trees. Evergreen trees keep their green leaves throughout the year whereas deciduous trees lose their leaves.

- List the four seasons of the year.
- Can you describe what a deciduous tree would look like in winter, spring, summer and autumn?

Split a piece of paper into four, one section for each season. Draw what a deciduous tree would look like in each season. Think about:

- Will it have leaves?
- What colour will the leaves be?



This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-55795816

This Week's Useful Videos

If everyone in the world planted a tree

www.bbc.co.uk/ideas/videos/what-if-everyone-in-the-world-planted-a-tree/p084tppq

This Week's Virtual Assembly

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This Week's Useful Vocabulary

Biodiversity – the existence of a wide variety of plant and animal species living in their environment.

Priority – if something is a priority, it is the most important thing.

Solution – the way of solving a problem or dealing with a difficult situation.

Stabilise – to make something more stable, make stronger or firmer.

Tackle – to tackle a difficult problem or task is to deal with it in a determined and efficient way.

Vital – something that is necessary, essential or very important.