

Forester activity 1

Tremendous trees

**Age
range:**
7-11

Duration:
Approx 60 minutes
to include worksheet
activity

Aim

For pupils to learn about the products that we obtain from trees.

Learning objectives

Pupils should learn:

- What the different parts of a tree are used for
- About the types of products that trees supply
- How important forests are for people



Curriculum links

England

- National Curriculum Science Sc3: 1c, 1d

Wales

- National Curriculum Science: Skills – Communication 1, 2, Enquiry, Reflection 1, 5, 6; Range – The sustainable earth 4, 5

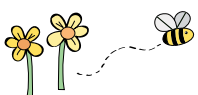
Materials and equipment

- Rough books and pens/pencils
- Computers with Internet access
- Encyclopaedias of various types, plus dictionaries
- Copies of Worksheet Fo1 (one per pupil if required – see below)



Key vocabulary

forest, tree, timber, wood, bark, leaves, fruit, products, chemicals



Running the activity

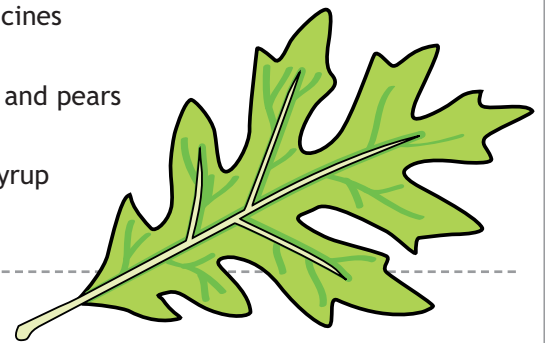
a) Introduction:

Show pupils a range of products made from trees, e.g. wooden ruler, sticky tape (made from cellulose), palm oil, rubber, cork. Ask what the products have in common, then ask the pupils to think of more things made from trees. Ask about leaves, fruits and nuts also. Emphasise that trees are an incredibly valuable resource and, because they are renewable, we will never run out. This is why the forester's job is so important: to maintain a supply of new trees. Go to **Woodland > Forester** and show them the **Forester video** to emphasise the importance of their work. Ensure that pupils understand that different trees produce different products and that many trees are used only for timber.

b) Research:

Using Worksheet Fo1, pupils create a tree diagram where they can record products made from trees, grouped in various ways. They can research products using reference books, encyclopaedias and the Internet. Less able pupils may need help and so the following items can be provided for them to add to their tree diagram:

- Timber (wood) > furniture > tables and chairs
- Timber > buildings > sheds
- Timber > pulp > paper > books
- Timber > cellulose > plastics
- Bark > bark chippings for gardens
- Bark > cork
- Leaves > garden mulch
- Leaves (palm trees) > boxes, baskets, rope
- Leaves > medicines
- Fruit > nuts
- Fruit > apples and pears
- Sap > rubber
- Sap > maple syrup



c) Discussion:

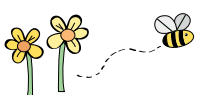
Discuss the products found by the pupils and see if anyone came up with anything unusual. There is a huge list of products made from trees at www.idahoforests.org/wood_you.htm

Extension activities

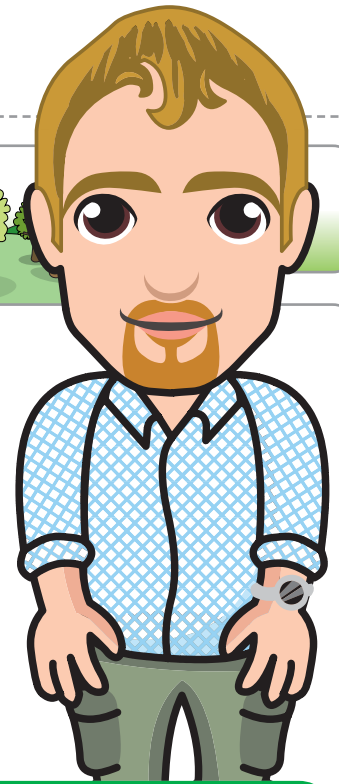
- 1 Grow some trees in pots by collecting seeds such as acorns, conkers, sycamore spinners and beech nuts. Plant these in moist compost in spring and keep them outside in a protected place – they are surprisingly easy to grow. Pupils can later plant out their saplings or take them home to continue growing them.
- 2 Discuss how trees are vital to the ecosystem of the earth because they consume carbon and supply oxygen. Trees take in CO₂ to make food via photosynthesis, thus helping to reduce global warming.
- 3 Go to **Woodland > Forester** and try the game with pupils. This will broaden their understanding of the forester's job.

Background information for teachers

Go to **Teachers > Useful links** to find out more about foresters and their work.



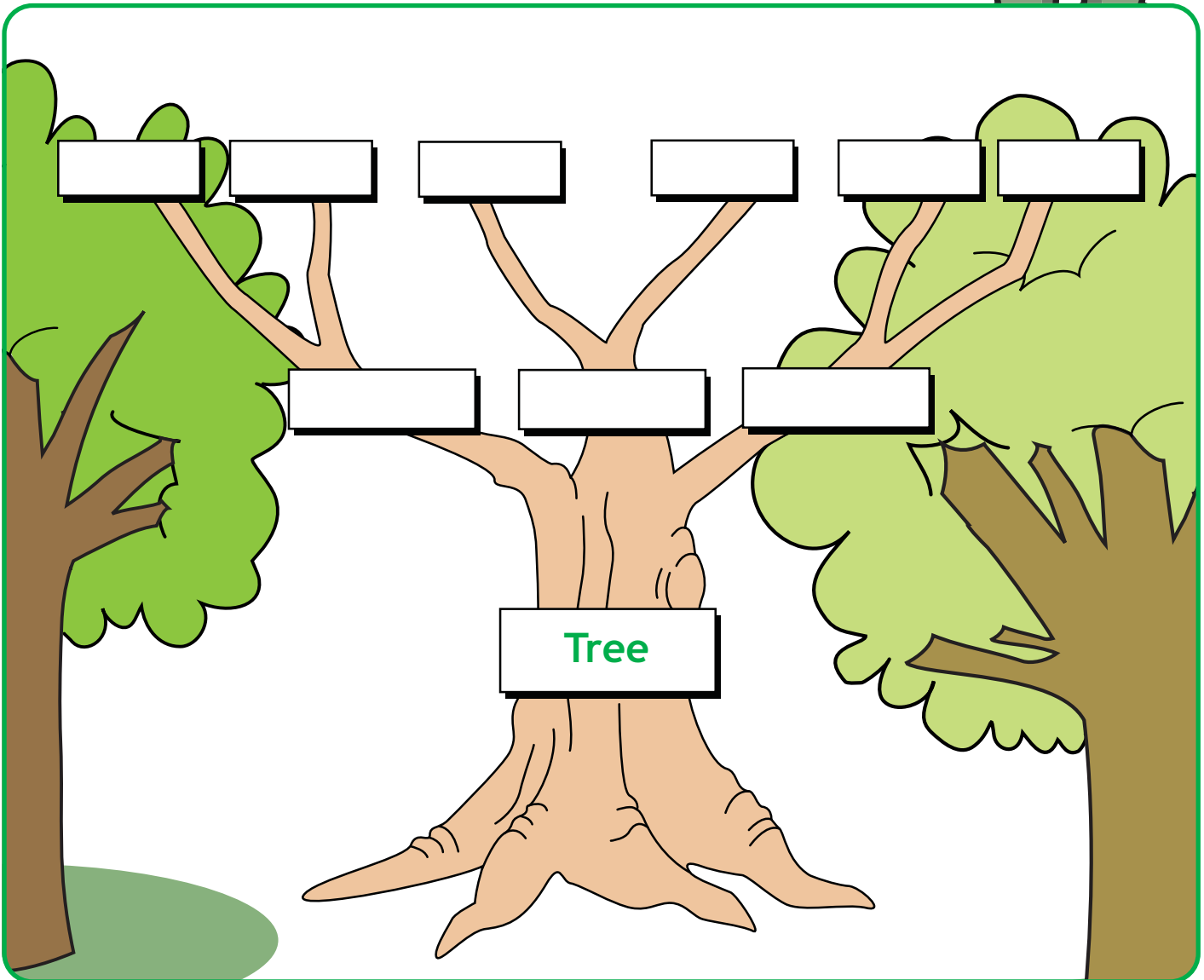
Fo1: Tremendous trees



Trees provide us with an amazing range of things. Wood is just one and there are many others you may not know about such as:

- Plastics for toothbrushes
- Charcoal
- Chewing gum
- Explosives

Your task is to do some **research** and find out what products are made from trees. You can look in books, encyclopaedias and websites. Instead of making a list, group the items together to make a **tree diagram**, below.



On the back

Draw four things that you didn't know were made from trees.

