



8th-14th February
**How important is it to
plant more trees?**

British Values

8th – 14th February 2021

Rule of Law

When experts discover better ways of protecting our environment, such as planting certain types of trees, the government can consider a change in the law so that planting trees correctly becomes everyone's responsibility.

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.

Things to talk about at home...

- 🌳 Talk about what you already know about trees? Do you know about different types and what we need them for?
- 🌳 Are there many trees near where you live?
- 🌳 Scientists have said that it is important that places where new trees are planted need to be carefully planned, why do you think this may be the case?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments here...



Question:

What would the world be like without trees?

Listen, think, share

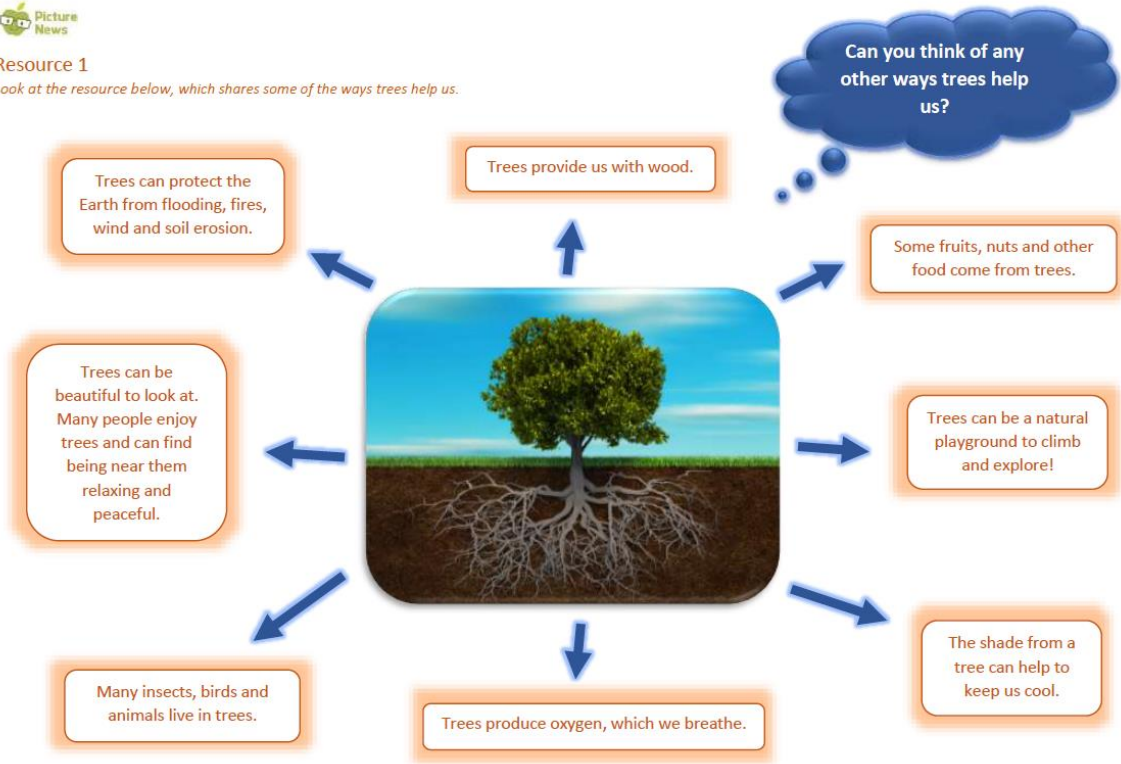
- Trees can be found all around us. Sometimes we may not even notice them as we pass by!
- Think about a short journey you make regularly e.g. to school, to the park. How many trees do you pass on the way? Is it possible to count them or are there too many? What might your journey look like if the trees 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.

Resource 1

Look at the resource below, which shares some of the ways trees help us.



Resource 2

Look at the resource below, which considers what might happen if all our trees disappeared.

Can you describe what your local area would look like without trees?

Trees store carbon in their trunks and remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Without trees, smaller plants might hold off the immediate effects of more carbon in the atmosphere, but it would increase. Eventually large amounts of carbon would run into the oceans 'possibly killing everything but jelly fish,' said Paolo D'Odorico, a professor of environmental science.




Without trees, the world would look very different. There would be no forests to run through and explore, no dens could be built, or branches could be climbed. You could not view a tree to paint or draw it or use it to inspire writing, poetry or music. You would not be able to sit in their shade or use them to help you relax and keep calm.

A world without trees?



There would be fewer insects, plants, animals and fungi as trees provide their habitat. Without trees there would be a wave of extinctions of several different species.

Animals, including humans, would begin to suffer through increased heat and lack of water. Many people rely on trees for their livelihoods and they may no longer be able to heat their homes or cook. The medicine and food provided by trees would also no longer exist.



The climate would be different. Without trees, areas would become much drier, potentially causing drought. When rain finally did come, flooding would be disastrous as there would be no trees to trap the water or keep the soil in place. Trees also have a cooling effect so most places where trees stood would become warmer.

Source: BBC