

Tree-mendous Trees

This is ECO₂ COP30 Lesson 1 aimed at children aged 7 – 9.

What is a Tree?

Slide 2

What is a tree? Ask the children to share anything that they already know about trees. Explain that trees grow all around the world in lots of different places.

Find a tree in your school grounds or local area, or look at the pictures on slide 2. Look and listen; what can you see and hear? Split the children into pairs and ask them to come up with a question that they would like to find out about this tree or trees in general. For example, what lives in a tree? Write down each pair's question and explain that over the next three lessons we will be learning all about trees.

Meet a Tree

This is a lovely game, if you have access to a couple of trees or more. Split the children into pairs and ask one child from each pair to either close their eyes or wear a blindfold. The child who has not closed or covered their eyes, carefully leads their partner to a tree to explore by touch. Once they have explored the tree, their partner leads them back to where they started and spins them round a couple of times. They then open their eyes or remove their blindfold; can they guess which tree their partner took them too? Encourage them to think about how the tree felt to help them make their choice, such as whether the bark was rough or smooth, whether they could feel the shape of the trunk, etc.



Parts of a Tree

Slides 3 – 4

Find a tree in your school grounds. If this is not possible, use slide 3. Point to the parts of the tree and explain their function:

- **Roots** – collect nutrients and water, and anchor the tree in the ground.
- **Trunk** – transports water and nutrients around the tree.



- **Branches** – the support structure for leaves, fruits and flowers to grow on.
- **Leaves** – collect sunlight which they can turn into energy (food).

Give the children pieces of chalk. Can they draw and label a tree on the playground, then explain the functions of each part to another group? Alternatively can they draw and label a tree on a piece of paper?

Use slide 4 to explain that trees need air, light, water, nutrients from the soil and space to grow.

Tree-mendous Facts

Slide 5

Read the fun facts about trees. Do the children know any other interesting facts? Are there any facts that surprise them?

Forests

Slides 6 – 12

Some trees grow alone or in small groups, such as on city streets and in gardens, but other trees grow in forests. Forests are large areas that mostly contain trees. Forests are also home to other plants and animals. Do you have any forests in your local area? Have any of the children been to a forest before? What do you think it feels like and sounds like in a forest?

Different countries around the world have different climates. A climate is the long term weather patterns in an area, and different trees and forests grow in each one. There are three types of forest; tropical, temperate and boreal. Learn more about each one:

- **Tropical Forest** – common to areas nearer the equator, they are the warmest, and often wettest, forests on the planet. They include tropical rainforests and mangrove forests. They cover less than 10% of the world but are home to over half the world's animal and plant species!
- The Amazon Rainforest is the world's largest tropical rainforest at over 2.7 million square miles!



- **Temperate Forest** – temperate forests are found in areas of the world where it's not extremely hot or cold. Temperatures change throughout the seasons, its warm in summer, cooler in spring and autumn and cold in winter. The tallest trees grow in temperate forests; Coastal Redwood trees can grow to be over 100m tall!

--> Sherwood Forest is home to hundreds of ancient oak trees, which are all over 400 years old. Oak trees can support over 2,300 species of animals and plants by providing food, a home and shelter.

- **Boreal Forest** – boreal forests are found across Siberia, Scandinavia and North America. They cover large, remote areas and temperatures are often below freezing. Boreal forests store huge amounts of carbon.

→ The Canadian Boreal Forest is one of the largest forests in the world, stretching right across Canada. It is home to many endangered species such as the woodland caribou, wolverine and grizzly bear.

Tree Species

Slides 13 – 15

There are lots of different species, which means types, of tree. Each species of tree has a name, such as 'oak tree' or 'teak tree.' Each species of tree is suited to living in certain climates, such as a place where it is warm throughout the year or a place that gets lots of rain, so different trees grow around the world. For example, the Baobab tree needs warm, dry conditions to grow, so it grows in countries such as Botswana, South Africa, Madagascar and Australia. It wouldn't survive in a much colder countries such as Norway or Canada. Look at some examples of tree species that are found in different countries around the world on slide 14.

Use slide 15 to explain that we can identify what species a tree is by looking at its leaves, seeds, fruit, flowers and bark.

Through this project we will hear from other schools around the world about what trees grow in their local area and country. Let's investigate what trees are in our school grounds and / or local area so we can share them with the other schools in the project.



Go on a walk around the local area or school grounds, spotting trees along the way. Look at the different leaves, seeds and / or fruit; can you use these to ID the trees? A local or national charity or organisation, such as The Woodland Trust in the UK, might have free ID sheets that you can download to help you. For example:
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/48345/leaf-id-sheet.pdf

Tree-mendous Trees

Slides 16 - 20

Why are trees important? Use slides 16 - 20 to learn about some interesting trees around the world and who they are special too.

Do you have a favourite tree or a tree that is special to your school? Take a picture of it and share it with us on [Padlet](#), telling us why it is special e.g. it is our favourite tree to read books under, it provides us with shade on hot, summer days. You could also ask the children to bring in a picture or a drawing of a tree that is special to them and make a display.

