

Forest 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF FORESTS FOR THE PLANET

Related to the Science Curriculum
Grades 4–6

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the lesson students will...

- Be able to explain why forests are important to the planet
- Describe what kinds of trees grow in their community and how trees are part of the ecosystem
- Identify several types of trees that grow in their community

MATERIALS

- RACHELS or Science textbooks
- Paper – Large Sheets
- Crayons and colored pencils
- Scissors and tape or glue

TIME

- 15 minutes introduction
- 1–hour research in groups
- 45 minutes class sharing

TOTAL 2 hours

PROCEDURE

01 Introduction

- What do we know about how trees and forests are part of the ecosystem?
- Leaves and roots provide important functions
- Cutting down forests can have negative affects

02 Student Research and Presentations

Divide students into small groups – each group researches one of the following aspects of forests:

- Trees and leave and photosynthesis – carbon dioxide and cleaning the air
- Tree roots – holding soil in place and water in the ground
- Canopies of the Rain Forest – what are the layers in a rainforest and what happens in each one
- Identify and describe the characteristics of the 5 main types of trees in their community or region

Students research information on RACHEL or in textbooks, or consult with the Forest Rangers and Elders.

03 Student Activity

Group Activity

- Groups prepare a poster explaining what they learned
- Each Group shares a short presentation to the class with the information they learned and showing on their poster
- Posters are hung on the walls of the classroom
- Students ask each other questions to make sure they understand each other's work

04 Conclusion

Sharing Circle

As a full class, talk about the importance of forests for the community and the planet.



Forest 4

IMPACTS OF DEFORESTATION

Related to the Science Curriculum
Grades 4–6

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the lesson students will...

- Be able to explain what deforestation is
- Describe three negative impacts of deforestation
- Describe two reasons for deforestation in their region
- Identify at least three ways to prevent deforestation

MATERIALS

- Invite Forest Rangers
- RACHELS or Science textbooks
- MAPEO – maps of deforestation
- Paper – Large Sheets
- Crayons and colored pencils
- Scissors and tape or glue



TIME

- 10 minutes introduction
- 1–hour research in groups
- 1–hour walk and discussion with Forest Rangers or MAPEO technicians
- 1 hour–prepare presentations for the class
- 50 minutes class sharing

TOTAL 4 hours
(Can be done over 2 days)

PROCEDURE

01 Introduction

- What do we know about deforestation in BOSAWAS?
- Causes, impacts, solutions

02 Knowledge Sharing

- Invite Forest Rangers to share information about deforestation in the community or region; go for a walk together to view the impacts of deforestation;
- Invite technicians working on MAPEO to present information and maps of deforestation in the community and BOSAWAS in general

03 Student Activity

Divide students into small groups – each group researches answers to the following aspects of forests:

- Trees and leave and photosynthesis – carbon dioxide and cleaning the air
- Tree roots – holding soil in place and water in the ground
- Canopies of the Rain Forest – what are the layers in a rainforest and what happens in each one
- Identify and describe the characteristics of the 5 main types of trees in their community or region

Students research information on RACHEL or in textbooks, or consult with the Forest Rangers and Elders.

04 Conclusion

Sharing Circle

As a full class, talk about the importance of forests for the community and the planet.