

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

21 March 2022



*The loss of forests and woodlands entails the loss of species which may constitute extremely important resources in the future, not only for food but also for curing diseases and other uses. Pope Francis, Laudato Si ' n 32*

## The theme for 2022 is “Forests and sustainable production and consumption”

From the time you woke up this morning, how many times have you used a product from a tree or a forest?

For example, I sat on a wooden chair to have breakfast, I wrote on a piece of paper, I breathed in oxygen!



- Ask your students the question above. Broaden it for primary students, to plants generally, then you can include the cereal or toast they ate for breakfast.
- Brainstorm how we use forests and why they are important for our survival.

People depend on forests for their livelihood, medicines, fuel, food and shelter.

Healthy forests filter our polluted air and provide clean air to breathe and water to drink. They regulate our climate and cool urban areas.

Forests are very important in mitigating climate change, as trees absorb carbon dioxide and store carbon, thereby removing excess carbon from our atmosphere.

These ecosystems provide food, shelter and habitat for 80% of the world’s biodiversity.

Forests are a renewable resource, but trees take many years to re-grow and ecosystems may not fully recover.

Source: [Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020](#)

For [more information](#)



### Did you know?

Global deforestation is occurring at an alarming rate. The world is losing 10 million hectares of forest each year, an area the size of Iceland.

Source: [Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020](#)

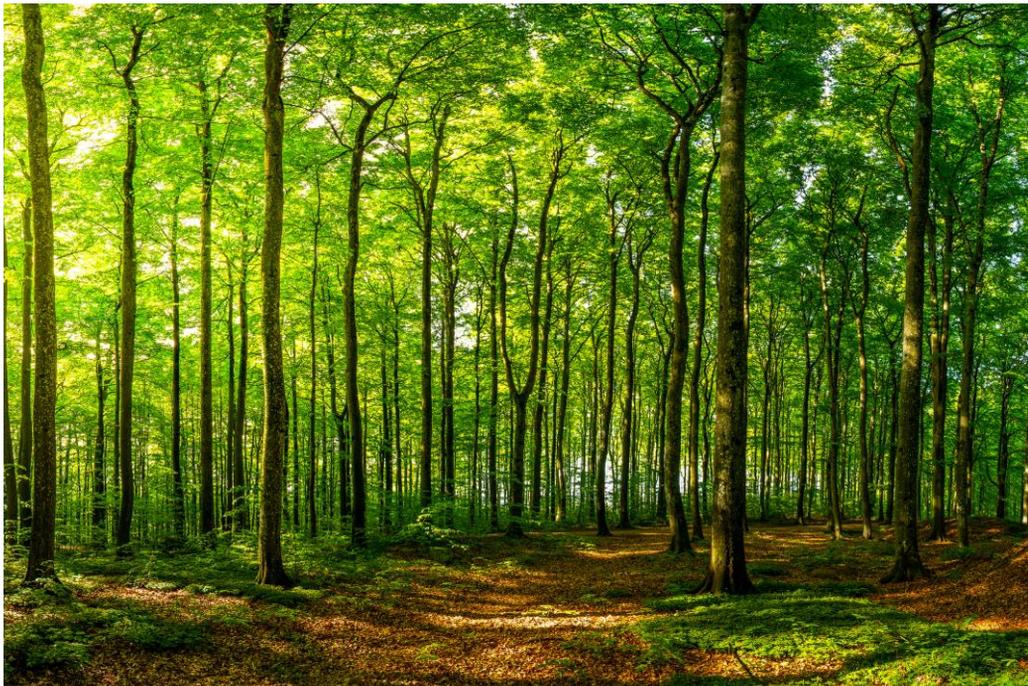
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## What can we do?

- We can raise awareness about forests: speak at assembly, make posters to display around the school, post information on your schools' social media and website (with permission from your principal).
- Plant trees and plants at home, at school and get involved with local tree planting days.
- Take a walk around your local area and inform your council of any significant mature trees that should be preserved.
- Research what is happening in the Amazonian rainforest; which animals and plants live there, why is deforestation occurring at such an alarming rate and what are the impacts on the people and animals that live there.
- Buy sustainable forest certified timber.
- Recycle paper and wood whenever possible, upcycle furniture.
- Don't buy food products from places you know have been deforested to grow the food crop or plant. For example, palm oil products.
- Reduce food loss and waste
- Adopt a healthier diet with less meat consumption.
- Write to your local, state and federal politicians, voicing your concerns about effective governance, respecting Indigenous peoples etc.



A Forest Photo Stock images

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## Primary student activities

- Choose a forest of the world and research which plants, animals and habitats exist there. Is this area being logged and why? Is there any action you can take?
- Read some [stories](#) about conserving forests from around the world.
- Learn about how mangroves protect Alomas' community in the [Philippines](#).
- This [Indonesian](#) case study is about a young woman called Tati. It shows how her community depended on the forest and the eco- tourism project Caritas Australia assisted to set up.
- Look at the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) that the UN set. Find out what they are and what they mean. Which goals are relevant for the International Day of Forests?
- Read and discuss Dr Seuss' story "The Lorax".

## Secondary student activities

- Research the [Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use](#) – how does this document protect our forests?
- Discuss this statement "ensuring the biodiversity of our forests could prevent pandemics". You will have to [research](#) and find evidence to support your ideas.
- Listen to this interview of [Ewald Rametsteiner](#), he is the Forest Deputy Director of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Write down the key points he makes.
- Read some [stories](#) about conserving forests from around the world. Discuss what you learnt.
- Learn about how mangroves protect Alomas' community in the [Philippines](#).
- Find out how Tati's community solved their ecological forest problem in [Indonesia](#)
- Study the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) that the UN sets. Look at [goal 15: "Life on Land"](#) in detail. Which targets are relevant for the International Day of Forests?



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