



tinyforest
earthwatch
EUROPE

KS3 LESSON IDEAS

11 ACTIVITIES TO INTRODUCE TINY FORESTS TO YOUR CLASSROOM!

Now is the perfect time to inspire and engage your students with nature, helping them to understand their impact on the natural world and take action to protect it. Our activities provide guidance on how to incorporate Tiny Forests in to your curriculum, offering ideas for engaging ways to connect your pupils to nature and build their confidence!

DEBATE PRACTISE

Split your class into two groups and ask them to prepare debates. You should pick a topic relating to the environment, and ask groups to prepare arguments for opposing sides. An example could be deforestation. One group should be for deforestation, while one group should be against deforestation. Give pupils time to research facts and figures, prepare opening and closing statements and allow each group to pitch their stance.

CLIMATE CASE STUDIES

Pupils will be provided with different solutions to climate change, either through a series of lessons or via fact sheets. You could then divide pupils into groups and assign them a country, providing them with basic information about that country. They should then pick the climate solutions that best align with their needs. Alternatively, you could assign each group a climate solution, and ask them to pitch it to the class.

MONITORING PROJECT

Tiny Forests are a great resource for environmental investigation. You could establish a monitoring project, in which students monitor growth of the forest and other biotic or living factors like wildlife monitoring through pitfall trapping, quadrat surveys and camera trapping. They could also monitor abiotic or non-living factors, such as temperature and rainfall.

TREE ID SKILLS

Students can learn different types of native trees by identifying key characteristics. This could include leaf shape, colour and features, as well as bark and fruit, flowers or seeds. This could be done indoors, by gathering items prior to the lesson, or outdoors, by asking pupils to explore the forest or school grounds to see what they can find. You could extend learning by asking pupils to identify trees near their homes.

HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Present pupils with 9 human impacts on the environment. This could range from fossil fuel production and deforestation, to ocean pollution and over fishing. The pupils should then put them into a diamond 9, ordering them from having the largest impact to the smallest impact. Students could then be given the extension of providing their reasoning behind their top and bottom choices.

CAROUSEL ACTIVITY

Place profiles of different forest stakeholders around the room. These stakeholders could be timber companies, farmers, conservationists etc. The students should move around the room in groups and read the profiles. They should write a bit about what the individual is saying and then decide whether they are for or against deforestation and why.

ECOSYSTEMS

Who wants to buy my ecosystem? Learn what an ecosystem is and then about the different global ecosystems. Groups must 'pitch' their ecosystems to the class - include some background theory, a location map of your ecosystem, facts on plants and animals, and tips on how you would survive there.

PERSUASIVE WRITING

Write a letter to parliament/local council about deforestation, climate change, reforestation etc. This exercise can be scaffolded for LA groups by providing a writing framework or template, or sentence starters. You could set requirements for HA students that they must include specific facts or statistics.

ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

Using examples taught during the topic, design an animal adapted to living in the forest. The drawing should be labelled and explanations should be given as to why the adaptation was chosen and how it could help with life in the forest.

FOREST PROJECT

Divide your class into several groups and assign each one a different forest. The groups are challenged with presenting their forest back to the rest of the class. Encourage them to be creative in the way they design their presentation - they could create a poster, film a documentary or prepare a song. Things they could include are climate information, species information, forest management and the forests history.