

FORESTS & PRODUCTS LESSON PLAN

Theme: Forests & Products

Resource: Lesson Plan

Green School Step:

Review

Action Plan

Informing and involving

Curriculum Links

Green Code

Curriculum Links:

- ✓ Living Things
- ✓ Myself and the wider environment
- ✓ Geography: History:

Global Goals/SDG Links:

Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

Goal13 – Climate Action

Goal 15 – Life on Land

Skills: : Research; Observing; Recording; Investigating; Identification; New Words, Art.

Aim/Concept:

Increased awareness of:

- ✓ How wood is used in our daily lives
- ✓ Where Irish timber products come from
- ✓ A number of Irish tree species
- ✓ How they are harvested and how products assembled
- ✓ Some properties of each timber

Resources:

- Slideshow of forest products
- Timber blocks as conversation points
- Hurley planks
- Willow rods
- Bring in your own range of wooden products, but classroom itself will have lots of resources. Make sure to include some daily items, ie. toilet roll inserts, egg cartons, copybook paper, etc.

Methodologies/Steps:

1. Introduce LEAF programme
2. There are a range of activities below, depending on time
3. Introduce Irish trees. Carry out a quick straw poll of how many trees the students know. Write them on the board.
4. **Activity 1:** Ask what trees do for us (quick class brainstorm). Briefly describe general benefits of trees-providing oxygen, water, biodiversity, preventing flooding, cleaning air, health, recreation.
5. Break them into groups for some group work. There are a number of activities below
6. **Activity 2:** Ask what products can be made from wood? (Group work or brainstorm)
7. **Activity 3:** Classroom audit of things made from wood (brainstorm or activity sheet)

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8. **Activity 4:** Group Work Quiz:
Ask what jobs/careers depend on wood?

If you wish to use a worksheet for Activity 3, you can print and copy Page 4 from the

9. **Activity 5:** Forests and Products
Talking Points - General

LEAF Global booklet: *Wood Products from the Forest – Activities:*

10. **Activity 6:** Forests and Products
Talking Points - Ash Tree and Hurley

It is a worksheet for students to fill for their Inventory List for Products in their Classroom made from. **The link is in the background information support sheet 1.**

Activity 1: Class Brainstorm:

Question 1: What do trees do? How do we benefit from trees?

See Background Information Support Sheet 1 for some answers

Activity 4: Group Work Quiz:

Question: What jobs/careers depend on wood?

Which group can think of the most jobs.

Allow for most answers once they can give a good explanation. Give them some jobs they may not have thought of, eg. Truck driver transporting wooden logs to sawmills, etc.

Activity 2: Group work or Brainstorm:

Question: What products can be made from wood?

Break class into groups and ask them to write as many products as possible. This could be made into a games/quiz (5 minutes). Record list on blackboard

See Background Information Support Sheet 1 for some answers

Activity 3: Classroom audit of things made from wood:

Question: What is made of timber in your classroom? This can be carried out with a lámha suas (hands up) survey. Record list on blackboard.

Activity 5: Forests and Products Talking Points

Briefly discuss the historical context of woodlands and products in Ireland (wattle and daub, tool handles, willow weaving).

See Background Information Support Sheet 1 for some answers

Learning about Forests Ireland
www.leafireland.org

Green Schools Biodiversity
www.greenschoolsireland.org/themes/biodiversity/

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At this point wooden props can be distributed. Ask one or two students to come to top of room and compare two blocks of wood in terms of:

- ✓ Weight
- ✓ Hardness
- ✓ Strength

(If there is a weighing scales, you can weigh them to see if there is a difference.

Discuss:

- How, why and where each are grown
- The reasons landowners choose to grow them (farmers, land owners)
- Importing timber V's growing our own
- What species to plant? soil type, appropriate land use:

For example:

Wet land = willow, alder, birch.

Dried land = hazel, ash, oak

- Benefits of spruce over hardwood
- Drawbacks of spruce over hardwood
- Danger of Monocultures
- Qualities of wood and the drawbacks of wood
- Why don't we make roads out of wood? Or cars out of wood? Will we in future?
- Benefits of woods over steel?
- Carbon sink rather than carbon source
- The need to teach and learn forestry and woodland skills such

as tree planting, coppicing, pollarding, etc.

Activity 6: Forests and Products Talking Points - Discussion on Hurley making

- Ash tree needs to be 32cm diameter at chest level to be ready for cutting
- It takes on average 30 years to get to this point
- We make almost half a million hurleys a year here in Ireland
- The bottom one metre of the ash tree is worth up to €100
- Unfortunately they are still mostly imported from countries like Poland!

Ecosystem under pressure – Spread of Ash Dieback (also called Chalara)

Additional Activities if you have capacity/time

Weaving/Clay and wattle house building

Jenga

Useful Links:

LEAF Theme – Forests & Products:

https://leafireland.org/resources/theme_category/forest-products/

LEAF International Resources on Products:

<https://www.leaf.global/our-resources>