



# FORESTS & PRODUCTS

## Support Sheet 1: Background Information

### **Background Information for facilitator:**

For the purposes of this IF workshop and to connect this to the later activity of the **Shrinking Forest**, try to use these 5 species as examples of trees and the products they are used to make:

<b>Tree</b>	<b>Used to Make (Product)</b>
Holly Tree ( Crann Cuilleán)	Wooden Table
Cherry Tree ( <i>Crann Sílin</i> )	Guitar
Ash Tree ( <i>Crann Fuinseóg</i> )	Hurley
Scots Pine Tree ( <i>Crann Réine Albanach</i> )	Roof Beams for a House/School
Oak ( <i>Dair</i> )	Timber for Flooring/Piece of Art/For Oak Barrels/Funeral Casket

### **Some Tree Product Information:**

- Ireland has a good climate for growing trees, as it is generally wet and mild
- Almost 11% of Ireland's land area is currently under forestry. 9% is non-native, 2% is native
- Tree Plantations are planted mostly in marginal land, which is often in the uplands
- We are far behind the European average of 30%
- Approximately 50% of our forestry is privately owned. The state owns the remaining
- Forestry is valued at €2 billion (including grants, planting jobs, harvesting, haulage, sales, processing, etc.)
- The majority of our forest products are exported
- The primary products made from Irish Forests are:
  - Sawn timber for construction
  - Composite products – MDF Board, Chipboard, OSB Board)
- Currently 12,000 people are involved in employment – both directly and indirectly
- Most new forests are planted by private landowners, including farmers. Up to €650 per hectare available for planting native broadleaf trees. Grants are smaller for planting conifers.
- Softwoods can mature and be harvested by 40 years growth
- Most hardwoods can mature and be harvested by 80 years growth
- Main species planted currently is the Sitka Spruce, Norway Spruce, Lodgepole Pine, Larch, Douglas Fir



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- Our Native Trees being grown to make products - Oak, Ash, Alder, Hazel
- Total produced 3.3 million cubic metres (explain cubic metres)
- Ash can no longer be planted due to Ash Dieback disease (Chalara)
- Half a million tonnes of paper and timber sheets
- Irish forestry make up 1.6 million football fields
- The worlds largest timber structure is Mjøstårnet in Norway – it is world's tallest timber tower it is 85.4-metre-high tower was built using cross-laminated timber (CLT)

### **CLASS BASED ACTIVITIES:**

#### **Activity 1: Class Brainstorm:**

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

**Some answers:** Clean air, soil, oxygen, store carbon, shelter from wind and rain, cool our planet down, part of water and air cycles, store and recycle nutrients, defend us from flooding, beautiful landscapes and special places to visit, wellbeing, building materials, boats, medicine, fuel, charcoal, fibre, food, names of places and people, history (Brehon laws), forests, woodlands, thickets and hedges, food, home and refuge to lots of wildlife communities (animals and plants), wildlife corridors, interconnectivity for genetic diversity, and the list goes on!

**Activity 2:** Things made from wood and physical props:

**Gather your own box of wooden props to bring to school:** walking sticks, picture frames, willow baskets, wooden bowls, wooden spoons, pendants, galls, toilet roll, tissues, paper, cardboard, books, pencils, medicine (willow bark contains aspirin), beehive frame, jenga, - **add to this....**

**Additional props to bring to generate interest:** Trees in pots, tree seeds, logs with moss, tree with rings, variety of branches/leaves; willow rooting in water, willow rods to be cut and left with class to root in water as experiment and then to plant out in school grounds, other woodland plants

#### **List of Wooden Products:**

Barrels	Electricity poles	Furniture	Jewellery	Matches
Baskets	Beehives	Oils	Boats	Toothpicks
Paper	Pencils	Flooring	Tables	Fenceposts
Chairs	Chopping boards	Walking sticks	Pegs	Shillelaghs/Walking sticks



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### Activity 3: Classroom audit of things made from wood:

**Question:** What is made of timber in your classroom

Some Answers: Tables, doors, Paper, Copy Books, Reading Books, Paint Brushes, Window Frames, Chairs, Rulers, Wooden Beams, and this list goes on too!

***If you wish to use a worksheet for Activity 3, you can use Page 4 from this booklet with students as an Inventory List for Products in their Classroom made from Wood:***

**Source: Products from the Forest – Activities:**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/552e4b90e4b04315604a6733/t/5602ac24e4b074836d2df2ab/1443015716209/Worksheets+Products+from+the+Forest.pdf>

### Activity 4: Group Work Quiz:

**Question:** What jobs/careers depend on wood?

Forester	Machine driver	Timber mill owner	Product Designer
Barrel Cooper	Ecologist	Carpenter Joiner	Engineer
Craftsman	Farmer	Biomass Fuel Supplier	Carpenter/Fitter
Basket weaver	Artist	Truck Driver	Tree Surgeon

### **Good Resource to use from LEAF Global/International:**

**Products from the Forest – Activities:**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/552e4b90e4b04315604a6733/t/5602ac24e4b074836d2df2ab/1443015716209/Worksheets+Products+from+the+Forest.pdf>

**Benefits and Services from the Forest – Activities:**

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/552e4b90e4b04315604a6733/t/5602ac11e4b074836d2df245/1443015697480/Worksheets+Benefits+%26+Services+from+the+Forest.pdf>