

Learning in your forest

Welcome to the public forest estate, a learning resource for everyone, everywhere.
To find out more, visit: forestry.gov.uk/england-learning

Explore
& discover
your
forests

The Forestry Commission cares for more than 1500 forests in England, which provide timber, wildlife habitats and opportunities for people to visit, enjoy and learn.

Glorious timber

Timber has been used for centuries as a building material. It is versatile, beautiful, and functional



Try
this...

...use sticks from the forest floor to do your own building - it could be a den, a bridge or a nest

Did you know?

Trees grow from seeds - some are evergreen (keep their leaves all year round) and some are deciduous (lose their leaves in winter). Most of our forests are a mixture of the two.

Scots pine -
evergreen



Beech - deciduous



Try
this...

...look for an evergreen tree and a deciduous tree. Can you identify them?

From tiny acorns...

Oak trees can live for at least 400 years, and are home to large numbers of creatures.



Try
this...

...look for an oak tree - can you find any creatures living in, on or under it?

Tall and straight

Conifer trees (ones with cones) grow quickly and are therefore excellent for producing timber.



Think
about...

...are there any conifers in your forest? Can you find any cones?

Timber!

When trees are fully grown, they are felled (cut down) using machinery or chainsaws.



Try this...

...look for evidence that forest operations have been taking place...

- a tree stump
- a newly cleared area of forest
- machine tracks in the mud

Making the cut

When trees have been felled, the timber is taken to the sawmill, where it is sawn by machine into planks.



Think about...

...how many things have you used today that are made from wood?

Only the beginning

After the trees have been cut down, more are planted, so that there will always be forests for wildlife, for timber, and for us to enjoy.



Think about...

...how many different animals and birds can you think of that make their home in the forest? What sort of clues have they left behind?

Thank you!

Thank you for visiting the forest today. We hope you have enjoyed it.



Think about...

...what activities will you do next time you visit?

Tell us what you think of this learning activity at <http://englandconsult.forestry.gov.uk/communications/learning>
Thank you.