

Geography KS3

Year 8

Unit 14: Can the earth cope? Ecosystems, population and resources

LHI project: The Blean Initiative - www.lhi.org.uk/blean

Blean Woods is the largest woodland in Kent. It contains sites of ancient woodland and is a valuable wildlife habitat. Almost half the wood has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and Blean Woods may be a suitable location for a geography field trip.

Learning objectives:

To study a major vegetation type (deciduous woodland) and its resource management.

Tree detectives

Using the woodland layers picture, ask pupils to identify the different layers and to list some of the plants and animals found in each one. For homework ask pupils to bring in leaves, twigs and/or fruits from at least one deciduous tree.

Next lesson the children can practice tree identification. This activity can be done as a class or in groups.



The chain game

A fun way to introduce food chains. Write the name of a woodland plant or animal on small pieces of paper (one for each pupil) and put them in a box. Eg, for a class of 35 you will need 20 blades of grass, five snails, four slugs, three frogs, two thrushes and one tawny owl. Each child takes a piece of paper. Ask the class to stand up while you describe a woodland food chain. At each stage the pupils that have been 'eaten' must sit down. The child left standing is at the top of the food chain.



Design a poster

Use an atlas to find the county of Kent and OS Landranger sheet 179 to locate Blean Woods. Identify a grid reference and study land-use, relief and transport routes. Ask pupils to design a poster to advertise Blean Woods. The aim of the poster is to inspire people to visit all year round. It must include the following:

- a location map and grid reference
- a variety of plant and animal life
- a depiction of a least two different seasons

Less able pupils can be given a copy of the location map instead of sketching it.

For more information about this and other LHI projects visit www.lhi.org.uk