Lesson 3: The Forest-Friendly School Project

Purpose
To explore the links between the school and the forest environment and to identify practical ways to reduce the school’s environmental impact.

Equipment needed:
- Resource Sheet 3 (overleaf)
- Internet access to explore research links

What to do:
Ask pupils to imagine that they’ve been asked to work for the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Their task is to find ways to make their school and community more aware of FSC and to support the work of the organisation.

Ask each group to research and briefly discuss the work of FSC using the links overleaf.

Brainstorm:
What do we know about FSC? Why is increased public awareness important to FSC? Do you think many people in this school/community could identify FSC’s tick-tree logo/know about the work of FSC?

Research:
Ask pupils to devise and conduct a simple questionnaire to determine current awareness levels of FSC within the school or amongst friends and family. Compare this with the national or regional average.

Group work:
Ask groups of pupils to explore the concept of a ‘forest-friendly school’ - a school that helps to protect forests by supporting the work of FSC.

Ask the pupils to use the Resource Sheet to explore their ideas about how schools can become more forest-friendly.

Plenary:
Invite pupils to explain their ideas. Ask them to select any items from their plans that they feel could be achieved quickly and easily within their own school. Sort the other actions into similar categories (e.g. medium term goal, long-term goal). Create an action plan for one or more of the suggestions:
Action:
Reason for action:
Start and end dates:
Stages:
Resources needed:
Names of people involved:
Success criteria:

National Curriculum Links
- Geography - Environmental interaction and sustainable development.
- Citizenship - Analysing information about topical issues.
- Cross-curriculum dimensions – Responsible participation in school and community activities.

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Love the Forest? Look for the Logo!
www.fsc-uk.org/education
Resource Sheet 3

What is FSC?
www.fsc-uk.org/about-fsc.2.htm

Awareness of FSC
Only 43% of people in the UK recognise the FSC logo. However, the figure increases to 57% amongst those aged 16-24. Why do you think awareness is higher in the younger age group?

What will forest-friendly schools do to improve awareness?

Forests in Danger
What are the main threats to forests? How are we linked to those threats by some of the things we buy? How should forest-friendly schools address these issues?

Sustainable Forestry
Lots of people find it difficult to understand that cutting down trees can be good for the environment. What do the pupils need to know about the sustainable management of forests and the use of trees as a renewable resource?

FSC Friday
What is it? How will schools take part? What could your school do to encourage parents, businesses, local primary schools and groups like the guides and scouts to get involved?

Purchasing & Waste
Schools buy forest products such as wood, paper, books and magazines. Find out about the paper that your own school buys – How much does it use? Where does it come from? How much does it cost? Could it be replaced by FSC paper? Find out about other forest products that are consumed in your school e.g. books, magazines and wood.

What can forest-friendly schools do to increase the purchase of FSC products within the local community? What can they do to increase rates of recycling; cut waste and reduce consumption? Are there any items that should/should not be purchased by forest-friendly schools?

Enjoying Forests
Where are the forests and woodlands in your local area? How could your school make use of these wooded areas and encourage more people to enjoy the forest environment?

Curriculum
What do the pupils need to know about forests and forestry? What's the best way to provide this knowledge? Are there any particular skills that should be developed in a forest-friendly school? What sorts of attitudes should forest-friendly schools promote?

Research Links
www.panda.org/about_our_earth/about_forests/
www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestry.nsf/byunique/infd-7m8gka
www.fscfriday.org
www.fsc-uk.org/10goodreasons
www.forestry.gov.uk/website/fchomepages.nsf/hp/GBEEE
http://visitwoods.org.uk