

Forests and forestry

God is a Loving Provider

God is Wisdom

Spiritual Awareness: We have responsibility to care for the creation

God has provided trees for use. Man has been given the responsibility of caring for the land. This includes care of forests and the amazing variety of trees contained within them. Natural forests provide a home for a huge variety of plants and animals, many of which are on the verge of extinction.

Rainforests contain a greater number and variety of plant and animal species than any other habitat on earth. Many are still unknown and many plants have potential healing properties yet to be discovered by medical science. Tropical rainforests are not only important to wildlife, but to the human race as well.

The roots of the forest trees hold the soil in place, preventing soil erosion. The trees themselves have an effect on the climate, gathering clouds that produce rain. The trees also absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. In spite of this, destruction of rainforests to satisfy man's greed continues at an alarming rate. On the other hand, wise management of the land, including forest plantation, is a way in which God provides for our needs. Wisdom, as well as provision is therefore an attribute linked to this unit.

Our response to 'God is a Loving Provider'

Because God is a Loving Provider I will...

- Love God
- Love others
- Forgive others
- Be kind and patient with others
- Help others
- Thank God for the things He provides
- Thank my parents for the things they provide
- Share with others the things that God has provided.

Supporting devotional resource

Themes for Christian Studies 2, (Provider): God's provision never runs out

Themes for Christian Studies 3, (Creator): God provides through His creation

Themes for Christian Studies 5, (Provider): God is a faithful provider

Themes for Christian Studies 7, (Life): God is the sustainer of life

Biblical References

Bible stories and passages

Matthew 25: 14-30 - The story of the talents is a story of responsibility with that which the Lord has provided for us.

Genesis 37-46 - God gave Joseph wisdom and used this wisdom in providing food for his family.

Genesis 1 – The creation:

Genesis 1:11 - The land produced vegetation.

Genesis 1:28 – We are God's caretakers.

Genesis 2: 8-9 - Trees in the Garden of Eden.
Psalm 104:10-18 - God provides for His creation.
Psalm 147:7-9 - God gives food to every living creature.

Memory verses

Psalm 92:12 – The righteous will flourish like palm trees; they will grow like the cedars of Lebanon. They are like trees planted in the house of the Lord.
1 John 5:14 – We are sure that God hears us if we ask Him for anything that is according to His will.
1 Peter 5:7 – Leave all your worries with Him, because He cares for you.
1 Phil 4:19 – My God will supply all your needs.

Key Questions

How do trees provide for our needs?
What would the world be like without trees?
How do trees provide for the needs of other plants and animals in the rain forests?
How long do some trees take to grow?
What are the dangers facing the world's natural forests?
What can be done to ensure that natural forests are not destroyed?
How can we take care of forests and bushlands?
What did God mean when He asked Adam to rule over the creation?

a) Rainforests

Outcomes

Students will

- appreciate the value of the rainforest to both human and animal life
- appreciate the threat to the world's rainforests
- understand the effects of rainforest clearance
- understand the rainforest as a living community of plants and animals

Activities

- Identify the different layers of the rainforest: the upper and lower canopies, the emergent trees and the forest floor.
- Draw a diagram of a rainforest, showing layers.
- Explain the meaning of a canopy.
- Explain the battle for light as trees and vines grow upwards, chasing the light.
- Describe the plants growing in the different layers.
- Make a project on animals living in the rainforest.
- Describe the value of the rainforests to human life.
- Research the way of life of peoples of the Amazon rainforest, who manage to live in the forest without damaging it.
- Explain why people from rich countries want to clear the forests, (agriculture, felling trees and building dams).
- Describe the effect of this destruction upon the world's climate and upon plant and animal species.

- Make a study of an endangered species.
- Plot rainforests on a world map.
- Make a list of ways people can help prevent the destruction of rainforests.

b) Forestry

Outcomes

Students will

- identify different types of trees
- understand the value of wood as a natural resource
- understand the difference between wood from plantations and the rarer species of trees from rainforests

Activities

- List the different uses for wood.
- Make a collection of wood samples.
- Compare a forest plantation and a rainforest.
- Identify rare expensive varieties of wood that come from rainforests. e.g. mahogany, teak.
- Identify wood that comes from a plantation e.g. pine
- Classify wood according to different qualities e.g. hard, soft.
- Test wood for properties e.g. Will it float? Is it easy to saw / hammer?
- Compare weights of wood samples.
- Classify and identify trees in the local area.
- Classify and identify types of processed wood such as chipboard, plywood and hardboard.
- Make a list of things in the home made of wood.
- Identify buildings made from wood in the local area.
- Research the value of wood to early pioneers.
- Make an article from wood.
- Make some rhythm stick from wood.
- Make paper.
- Make a collage using bark, sawdust, wood shavings.
- Use pieces of wood to make prints.
- Label the parts of a tree.
- Explain the way that water and nutrients travel from the roots to the tip.
- Explain the way in which the leaves use sunlight and carbon dioxide to produce oxygen.

Skills

- Respond to and pose questions, and make predictions about familiar objects and events
- Participate in different types of guided investigations to explore and answer questions, such as manipulating materials, testing ideas, and accessing information sources
- Predict results of experiments
- Use informal measurements in the collection and recording of observations, with the assistance of digital technologies as appropriate
- Process and analyzing data and information

- Use a range of methods to sort information, including drawings and provided tables
- Through discussion, compare observations with predictions
- Compare observations with those of others
- Represent and communicate observations and ideas in a variety of ways such as oral and written language, drawing and role play

Values

- practice environmental responsibility
- appreciate God's creation
- trust in God as a loving provider

Assessment

1. Present in table form the results of experiments to test properties of wood
2. What have I learned from the study of trees and forests...
 - about God?
 - about doing what God wants me to do?
 - about the Bible?

Link with Australian Curriculum

Science Year 2: Science for Human Endeavour – People use science in their daily lives when caring for the environment and living things.

Learning Connections

English: stories of God's miraculous provision

Art: Collages using materials from trees; drawings and prints of trees

Social Studies: trees in our community; wood products

Additional Beacon Media resource

'Trees' – Units of Study – Student workbook