



Community action: improve your local area

Explore ways your school and community can work together to make a positive difference to your local area.

Use this activity to help fulfil the **Become a school woodland Ambassador** challenge.

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/your-school/green-tree-schools-award/woodland-ambassador/

Worth three points on the award.



Curriculum requirements KS3

- All students should develop an interest in, and commitment to, participation in volunteering as well as other forms of responsible activity, that they will take with them into adulthood.

Learning outcomes

After completing this activity, students will:

- know the roles played by public institutions and voluntary groups in society
- understand the ways in which citizens work together to improve their communities
- have identified opportunities to participate in school-based activities.

Preparation and resources

The following materials will help you deliver this activity successfully.

Outdoors – in a local woodland, park or your school grounds

- risk assessments
- health and safety equipment
- outdoor clothing and footwear suitable for all weathers



In the classroom

AV equipment to show the film 'The Big Climate Fightback: Young People's Forest at Mead, Derbyshire' www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/young-peoples-forest-at-mead/

Location

Different parts of this activity can be carried out in different places.



On a woodland visit

If possible, visit a local woodland managed by a charity or local volunteer group and meet them to find out what they do.



In your school grounds or a local park

Alternatively, go into your school grounds or a local park with trees before or as part of your lesson. Ask students to survey the area and decide what would improve it.



In the classroom

All parts of this activity can be done in class.



Starter activity (10 minutes)

Watch our video: The Big Climate Fightback: Young People's Forest at Mead, Derbyshire

The film shows the need for more trees in the UK and how to take action.

Main activity (40 minutes)

Discuss the difference between government organisations, charities and voluntary organisations.

Introduce students to the Woodland Trust. We're a national charity that aims to protect and care for the UK's trees and woods. We also create new native woods and give free trees to schools and communities to help them improve their local areas.

In small groups, ask students to design a tree planting project for their local area and/or school grounds. They can use our interactive planting planner and the tree planting resources on our Tree Tools for Schools website to help shape their plan - **treetoolsforschools.org.uk**.

Their plans should include: the area needing trees, who to ask permission to plant them, who to involve (for example, other groups in the community), tools, health and safety, trees, stakes and guards, and ordering the trees from the Woodland Trust.

Each group should present their tree planting plan to the class.

Plenary/evaluation (10 minutes)

Identify which students would like to take forward their plans. Could they organise a tree planting event in school?

For further help and to apply for free trees, visit **treetoolsforschools.org.uk**.



Extension

Encourage your students to explore other ways they could contribute to improving your local community.

You can also find your local Woodland Trust wood and plan a visit, to learn more about the work of the charity and why trees and woods are so important.