



Activity 1 – Produce a poster or essay about woodland urbanisation

Create a poster or write an essay discussing the impacts of urbanisation on British woodlands.

While this activity doesn't gain you points on the award, it is excellent background for students and increases their engagement with woods and trees.



Curriculum requirements KS3

Students should:

- understand human geography relating to population and urbanisation; international development; economic activity in the primary, secondary, tertiary, and quaternary sectors; and the use of natural resources.

Learning outcomes

After completing the activity, students will:

- be able to describe the effects of population, urbanisation, and the economic sector on British woods
- understand how woodland can be managed sustainably
- be able to refer to real life trees or local woodland that is experiencing effects of human activity
- be able to explain how the utilisation of natural resources and implementation of renewable energies would contribute to the restoration of woodlands and reduce the impact of urbanisation.

Preparation and resources

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

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



In the classroom

- AV equipment to show the film 'What is ancient woodland?'
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/habitats/ancient-woodland/
- information about the threats to British trees and woods:
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/protecting-trees-and-woods/threats-to-woods-and-trees/
- information about the benefits of planting trees and how trees can reduce the impact of urbanisation:
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/why-plant-trees/
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2020/01/emergency-tree-plan/
- writing equipment, for example notebooks and pens
- internet access to carry out research

Location

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



On a woodland visit

If possible, go to a local woodland before the lesson students can see and discuss the impacts of urbanisation on the woodland.



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. Sit underneath some trees and discuss why British trees are valuable and how the area has been impacted by human intervention.



In the classroom

All parts of this activity can be done in class.



Starter activity (10 minutes)

Watch our video: What is ancient woodland?

Watch the film to learn about the value of ancient woodland. In pairs, think about some of the threats facing British woods and discuss these two questions before feeding back to the whole class:

- How is population and urbanisation affecting British woodland?
- How is the economic sector affecting British woodland?

Main activity (40 minutes)

Ask students to research and discuss the effects of population, urbanisation, and the economic sector on British woodland.

Students should have the opportunity to visit their school grounds or a local wood and suggest how urbanisation has affected that area.

If visiting an outdoor location is not possible, students should research local woods or watch the Woodland Trust video 'What is ancient woodland' to understand the importance of British woodlands.

There are two options for this activity.

1. Students can produce a poster to illustrate the ways local natural resources like woods are under threat and why their sustainability is important. Or...
2. Students can produce an essay highlighting the effects of urbanisation and economic activity on British woodland and include real life examples. Students will need to include suggestions as to how the utilisation of natural resources and implementation of renewable energies could contribute to the restoration of woodlands and reduce the impact of urbanisation.



Plenary/evaluation (10 minutes)

To end the lesson, ask students to present their posters or their points of view for or against protecting, conserving and increasing woodland in the UK.

Extension

Students can further develop their skills by identifying local areas around the school, or within the school grounds, that would benefit from more trees and a planting day could be organised.

For more information on free trees and planting advice, visit our Tree Tools for Schools website treetoolsforschools.org.uk.