



**LEARNING  
ABOUT  
FORESTS**



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## Contents

Introduction to Learning About Forests (LEAF)	Page 3
LEAF Timeline	Page 5
LEAF Themes	Page 6
LEAF Sub-Themes	Page 8
The Forest Cycle	Page 9
Forest Eco-Committee	Page 11
Environmental Forest Awareness Review	Page 12
Action Plan	Page 14
Curriculum Links	Page 18
Informing & Involving	Page 19
Monitoring & Evaluation	Page 20
Forest Eco-Code	Page 21
Applying for the LEAF Award	Page 22

A huge thank you to our friends at Frugi Organic Cotton Clothing, who are supporting the Learning About Forest (LEAF) programme in England. We are very excited about working with them to help get more young people outside reconnecting with and restoring our forest ecosystems. Both Frugi and ourselves invite you to share your LEAF work with us on social media by using **#LEAF** and **#LEAFrugi** we cant wait to see what you all get up to this spring and summer!

# Introduction to Learning About Forests

Learning About Forests (LEAF) advocates outdoor learning and hands-on experiences, which result in young people getting a deeper and more involved understanding of the natural world.

Now in its 21st year the LEAF programme operates in 28 countries and engages with over 700,000 young people around the world to instil a sense of ownership over their natural surroundings.

LEAF was initiated in 1999 by the Forest in Schools programme in Norway, Sweden and Finland in cooperation with the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE). It was officially rolled out as a global award in 2000. The LEAF programme is operated on a national level by the same organisations who manage the Eco-Schools programme. In this case Eco-Schools England operators at Keep Britain Tidy!

## Aims of the LEAF programme

- To see an increased level of awareness and knowledge about the key role forests play for sustainable life on our planet.
- To stimulate activities that will help young people achieve an increased level of environmental maturity irrespective of age, experience and previous knowledge.



## Goals and Objectives

- Ensure young people experience and observe nature and learn to enjoy the outdoors.
- Develop positive attitudes towards the environment and our forests.
- Provide a general curiosity about nature and human interaction with forests.
- Establish knowledge of ecological webs and a better understanding of nature's processes.
- Realise the connection between human activity and nature.
- Equip young people with the capability of making decisions on environmental issues, teaching them to develop their questioning skills, whilst collecting knowledge and information relevant to making informed decisions.
- Empower young people to take responsibility for their future, teaching that every individual is responsible for their own individual actions.



# Introduction to Learning About Forests cont.

It is important to note that the LEAF programme and the LEAF Award are open to:

- ✓ Registered Eco-Schools
- ✓ None registered Eco-Schools
- ✓ Youth groups
- ✓ Registered home schoolers

Whilst the focus of the LEAF programme is forest-based ecosystems, the skills and knowledge acquired can be applied to any natural environment: we realise that not every young person has a global forest ecosystem on their doorstep! So, we especially welcome those learning and living in urban areas to take part in the programme and connect with nature and ecosystems that exist in their towns and cities.

Did you know there are 240 species of dandelion in the UK!



For the LEAF programme an 'ecosystem' can include but is not restricted to:

- ✓ Forests or Woodlands
- ✓ School Grounds
- ✓ Local Parks and Green Spaces
- ✓ Allotments
- ✓ Home Gardens

Like Eco-Schools the LEAF programme must be led by young people as they work through the Forest Cycle (Seven Steps) for their chosen LEAF Theme. Through planning, leading and monitoring actions, a Forest Eco-Committee will change behaviours and raise awareness of the importance of the trees and ecosystems in their local community.



# LEAF Timeline

The LEAF programme runs annually with a window for award application in the summer term.

Below is the revised timeline for Spring/ Summer 2021 for those wishing to take part in the LEAF programme and apply for the LEAF Award.

March  
2021

Join the LEAF programme via the registration page on the Eco-Schools England website.

The person registering on behalf of the school, youth group or home-schooled family must be aged over 18.

You are able to register to join the programme at any point up until the LEAF award application window opens in June 2021.

Spring  
Term

Work through the Forest Cycle as part of the LEAF programme.

For 2021 we are accepting work and actions that have been carried out since September 2020 as evidence that can be back dated for the LEAF Award.

1st  
June  
2021

Application window for LEAF Award **OPENS**.

Schools, youth groups and home-schoolers are able to submit their LEAF Award application.

30th  
July  
2021

Application window for LEAF Award **CLOSES**.

The Eco-Schools England Team will be assessing all fully completed LEAF Award applications as and when they are submitted throughout June and July 2021.

E-Certificates (we are saving paper) will be sent via email once a Forest Eco-Committee's LEAF Award application has been assessed to ensure all Forest Cycle and LEAF Theme actions have been undertaken.

The next LEAF programme and award application will commence in September 2021 and run until July 2022



# LEAF Themes

The LEAF programme announces a new theme annually based on the recommendations of the Food and Agricultural Organisation's Forestry Department (FAO).

Announced on 21st March 2021 this year's theme is:

## Forests And Restoration

The LEAF programme is operated thematically. Participating schools, youth groups or home-schoolers **must pick one Theme** to focus on as their Forest Eco-Committee work through the Forest Cycle.

New: Forests and Restoration

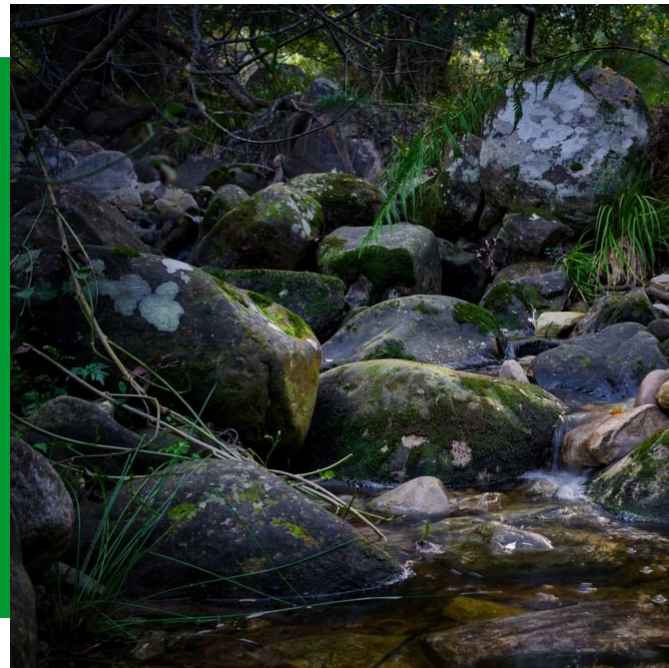
Forests and Biodiversity

Forests and Climate

Forests and Water

Forests and Community

Forests and Products



Regardless of which LEAF Theme is picked, your Forest Eco-Committee must ensure their work includes links to:

- **Ecology:** relationships between the living and none living within forest ecosystems. Such as: soil, water, food webs and the carbon cycle.
- **Economy:** how forest ecosystems link to money, business and industry. Such as: sustainable timber production and trade.
- **Society:** the effect forest ecosystems have on how we behave and feel. Such as: our mental health and well-being.
- **Culture:** the role forest ecosystems have in our national and local traditions. Such as art, literature and folklore.



# LEAF Themes cont.

Below are simple outlines of the different LEAF Themes, many of which are interconnected. As the LEAF programme is intended to be led by young people, a Forest Eco-Committee may interpret the themes differently, or uniquely and this is definitely something to be encouraged.

## NEW: Forests and Restoration

This year's theme invites you to look at how forest restoration, at any scale can help support climate action and reduce biodiversity loss. This year also focuses on the well-being element of forests: investigating and raising awareness of the healing effects that forests and trees have on us.

## Forests and Biodiversity

All forests offer a huge diversity of habitats for plants, animals and insects. However these biologically diverse ecosystems are under threat both here in the UK and overseas. LEAF encourages you to investigate why forests and trees are so important for local biodiversity and what you can do to protect them.

## Forests and Climate

Forests and trees are the lungs of the planet and act as major carbon stores. If you are aiming to reduce your carbon footprint LEAF encourages you to research the impacts of deforestation and think of ways you could help reduce this. You could also investigate the effect of trees on local microclimates too.

## Forests and Water

Forests play a vital role in the water cycle, they reduce flooding and improve water quality. LEAF encourages you to think about the relationship between trees and water and how you can help others understand these important links.

## Forests and Community

Forests and trees are of great importance to people and their communities. We have always depended upon them for our survival yet they are decreasing at an alarming rate—only 30% of the Earth surface is now covered by forests. Through LEAF find ways to make a green space a key part of the local community again, whether park, allotment or single tree!

## Forests and Products

We have always depended on forests for resources; our ancestors were hunter-gatherers and now we use forests (and their ecosystems) for a huge variety of resources from timber to medicines. For LEAF why not raise awareness of why forests are vital to our survival and find ways to sustainably use these resources.



# LEAF Sub-Themes (Optional)

If you and your Forest Eco-Committee are experienced and would like to enhance your main LEAF Theme work you can also choose to work on one of the optional LEAF sub-themes.

These sub-themes may also be interesting for older members of your Forest Eco-Committee, who are hoping to expand their knowledge of forests, or Eco-Schools holding multiple Green Flags, who would like to expand previous topic actions for Eco-Schools School Grounds or Biodiversity topics.

## Forest Laws and Codes

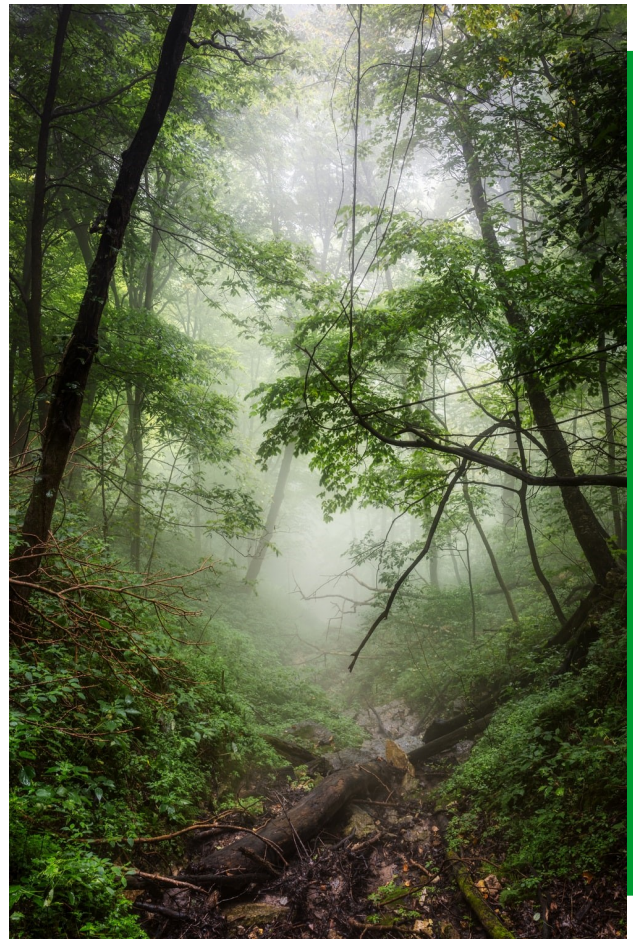
A very important part of looking after our forest ecosystems, green spaces and trees are the policies, laws and codes in place (in England and around the world) that are designed to protect them. Understanding how these laws and codes work, and the key stakeholders who shape and influence them, is vital. With this sub-theme LEAF encourages you to research local and national legislation that may influence the main LEAF theme you have chosen to work on.

## Forests Myths

The word 'Forest' means different things to different people depending on factors such as age, gender, ethnicity and race. With this sub-theme LEAF encourages you to investigate the impact forests and trees have had on culture and how this has influenced our attitudes towards them.

## Forest Creativity and Innovation

For thousands of years forests and their ecosystems have inspired humans across the arts and sparked technological advancements. Choose this LEAF sub-theme to embrace your Forest Eco-Committees' inventiveness and let their imaginations run wild.





# The Forest Cycle

The Forest Cycle helps your Forest Eco-Committee to implement, manage and evaluate the work they plan to carry out on their chosen LEAF Theme to raise awareness of forests ecosystems and outdoor education in their community.

The LEAF programme is an annual academic programme that will run from September to July each year. Sadly due to COVID restrictions and schools closures we have had to postpone our LEAF launch in September 2020 until March 2021.

Rather than wait until September 2021 to launch in the next school year we felt, after speaking with many of our Eco-Schools and home-schooling families, that we should launch this spring 2021! After a year of being inside (and very little social interaction that didn't involve screens), we hope that as the weather gets warmer (we can't promise drier) the LEAF programme will encourage schools, youth groups and families to venture outside to appreciate and reconnect with the nature they find in their local communities.

This does mean, however, that there are only a few months until we would like your Forest Eco-Committees to submit their LEAF Award applications for 2021. But we are very confident - based on the amazing actions we have seen across our Eco-Schools and the work carried out for our [#EcoSchoolsAtHome](#) campaign - that lots of LEAF work is already being completed throughout England in schools grounds, parks and gardens!

The Forest Cycle stages do not have to be carried out in the order set out over the following pages. You, and your Forest Eco-Committees, might decide to adopt a more holistic approach to the LEAF programme and overlap different stages of the cycle. For instance, you may want to decide on what actions you would like to add to your Action Plan before deciding on the additional Theme questions you would like to add to your Environmental Forest Awareness Review. You may also decide to create your forest Eco-Code, before starting your theme actions: this may help engage and motivate others to join you as you work through the programme! The LEAF programme is flexible the only rules are that you pick ONE LEAF Theme to work on and have addressed each of the Forest Cycle stages before applying for your LEAF award anytime between 1st June and 30th July 2021.

Those of you who are registered Eco-Schools will notice the 'Forest Cycle' follows the same framework as the Eco-Schools Seven Steps. We also understand that the LEAF Coordinator in a school is highly likely to be the Eco-Schools Eco-Coordinator. As we do not want to give individuals additional work to complete, please remember that you can use your LEAF work as topic evidence, when applying for or renewing your Eco-Schools Green Flag. In that way, you can achieve two international, school awards with one set of actions—a great way to recognise the hard work you, and the young people you have worked with, have completed.



# The Forest Cycle cont.

Choose ONE Theme

Forests and Restoration	Forests and Biodiversity	Forests and Climate
Forests and Water	Forests and Community	Forests and Products

Decide if you would also like an optional Sub-Theme

Yes

No

Forest Laws and Codes	Forest Myths	Forest Creativity and Innovation
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Work through the Forest Cycle



Apply for free LEAF Award between 1st June and 30th July 2021



# The Forest Cycle: Forest Eco-Committee

The 'Forest Eco-Committee' should aim to lead and direct all areas of the forest cycle as they work through the programme towards their annual LEAF Award. The Forest Eco-Committee are also responsible for choosing and working on the LEAF Theme.



## What You Need to Do:

### 1. Register

An individual aged over 18 must take responsibility for registering on the LEAF programme via the Eco-Schools England website:

**Schools:** this must be a person employed by the school, this can also be your school's Eco-Coordinator.

**Youth Groups:** this must be an adult who is responsible for managing the group, such as a Scout Leader.

**Home-Schoolers:** this must be the parent/guardian who is the registered home educator for the children.

### 3. Pick a Leaf Theme

Your Forest Eco-Committee must then **pick ONE of the LEAF Themes** (page 7) that they would like to work on and raise awareness of, through the LEAF programme. Whichever Theme they pick your Forest Eco-Committee must remember to include actions that link to: Ecology, Economy, Society and Culture (page 6).

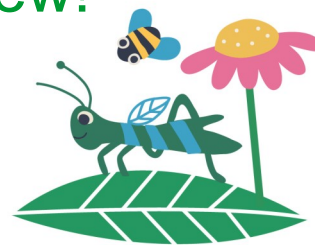
### 2. Form a Forest Eco-Committee

Once your LEAF Coordinator has registered to take part in the LEAF programme you will need to **form a youth lead Forest Eco-Committee** that will take ownership of the LEAF programme. The LEAF programme is open to all ages and your Forest Eco-Committee can be any size.

### Optional: Choose a Sub-Theme

Your Forest Eco-Committee could also choose to work on one of the sub-themes (page 8), alongside your main LEAF Theme. This is not compulsory and only advisable if your LEAF Coordinator thinks this is feasible in your setting.

## Next: Environmental Forest Awareness Review!



# The Forest Cycle: Environmental Forest Awareness Review

The Forest Eco-Committee must conduct an Environmental Forest Awareness Review at the start of the programme to assess initial awareness of the chosen LEAF Theme in their community.



## What You Need to Do:

### 1. Create an Environmental Forest Awareness Review

Once your Forest Eco-Committee have chosen their LEAF Theme they will need to **create an Environmental Forest Awareness Review** to help them understand what others in their school, youth group and local community know about their chosen LEAF Theme. The responses from this will help them to decide what actions they need to include in their Action Plan to help raise awareness of their LEAF Theme.

The Environmental Forest Awareness Review your Forest Eco-Committee create **must contain** the short compulsory forest ecosystem question listed below.

Your Forest Eco-Committee **must also write their own specific questions relating to their chosen LEAF Theme**. We would suggest that your Forest Eco-Committee write no more than 5 additional questions, and have included some examples below!

#### Compulsory Questions

All four questions below must be included in your Environmental Forest Awareness Review.

1. Give one reason why forests and trees are important for:
  - The Planet
  - People
  - Plants and Animals
2. Name 4 different UK tree species.
3. List 3 threats to forests and the plants and animals that live in them.
4. List 3 ways we can protect forests.

#### Example Theme Questions

LEAF Theme questions should be written by your Forest Eco-Committee. You only need to write questions for the one LEAF Theme you have chosen.

**Forests and Restoration:** Can you estimate how much of the Earth's surface is covered in forests?

**Forests and Biodiversity:** Name 3 different UK bird species.

**Forests and Climate:** What is the process by which trees and plants absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere called?

**Forests and Water:** How do trees take water out of the ground?

**Forests and Community:** What is your favourite flower and why?

**Forests and Products:** How many items of wood furniture do you have in your home?

# The Forest Cycle: Environmental Forest Awareness Review cont.

## 2. Distribute your Environmental Forest Awareness Review

Your Forest Eco-Committee must then decide how they will distribute their Environmental Forest Awareness Review with others based on your setting. This could be via:

- A newsletter
- A website
- Remotely interviewing
- Using social media



## 3. Conduct Your Environmental Forest Awareness Review

There are no minimum or maximum number of Environmental Forest Awareness Reviews that need to be answered, however the more responses you can gather at the start of your Forest Cycle the more effective your actions will be. If at the start people are unable to answer your questions because they do not know the answers please do not worry—this just means your LEAF actions are even more important to help others learn to love forests too!

**Important Point:** After your Forest Eco-Committee have carried out some or all of their actions they must ask (ideally same people) to complete the Environmental Forest Awareness Review again to assess if their action plan was successful for the Monitoring and Evaluation section of the Forest Cycle.



Next: LEAF  
Action Plan



# The Forest Cycle: LEAF Action Plan

The Forest Eco-Committee will carry out actions of their choice to help them raise awareness of their chosen LEAF Theme in their local community.



## What You Need to Do:

### 1. Use the Responses from your First Environmental Forest Awareness Review

Use the responses you have received from your first Environmental Forest Awareness Review to help you consider what actions you and your Forest Eco-Committee would like to take to raise awareness of your chosen LEAF Theme in your school, youth group or local community. If you have decided to work on one of the optional LEAF sub-themes remember to include ideas for this in your action plan too.

### 3. Create your LEAF Action Plan

In the next few pages, you will find ideas for possible LEAF actions, each aimed at raising awareness. These ideas are followed by a blank template of a LEAF Action Plan that your Forest Eco-Committee can use.

It is very important to note that your LEAF Action Plan is a working document. Ideas and actions to raise awareness may not go to plan, you may have to adapt and change your actions once started - this is all acceptable as long as your Forest Eco-Committee are the ones leading the actions!

### 2. Remember to Include:

1. Your Action Plan **must include** actions for your LEAF Theme linked to: **Ecology, Economy, Society and Culture** (see definitions on page 6).
2. In your LEAF action plan **you can also include actions that you have previously completed this academic year** that you think were suitable for the LEAF Theme you have chosen.
3. Your Forest Action Plan can also include projects and campaigns that you are currently working on for other organisations and charities such as RSPB, WWF, the Wildlife Trust, Forest Schools or RHS if your Forest Eco-Committee think they will help raise awareness of your LEAF Theme and can be linked to ecology, economy, society or culture.

## Important Point:

In order to apply for your LEAF award in June/ July 2021 your Forest Eco-Committee will need to have completed the majority of their actions, as they must carry out a second Environmental Forest Awareness Review as part of the Monitoring and Evaluation section of the Forest Cycle to see whether their plans were successful.

# The Forest Cycle: LEAF Action Plan cont.

Ideas for possible actions. We have not linked these to a particular LEAF Theme as different Forest Eco-Committees may interpret them differently depending on their knowledge and understanding of the Themes. We have however highlighted if the action links to: Ecology, Economy, Society or Culture.



1. **Become 'Guardians of the Garden'**. Depending on the interest and studies, your Forest Eco-Committee could become Super Heroes who protect and promote different parts of your garden ecosystem such as the flowers, the pollinators, the soil or birds. [Ecology](#)
2. Carry out a project to **investigate what things in your school, youth group centre or homes are made from 'trees'**. Have these items been sustainable sourced? [Economy](#)
3. **Find out why people don't want to go outside to learn**, this can be both young people and adults. Once you have this information, what can your Forest Eco-Committee do to help overcome these reasons and make outside learning irresistible? [Society & Culture](#)
4. **Get planting** – this could be anything from a small herb garden to tree saplings in your schools grounds or local green space. [Ecology & Society](#)
5. This spring **carry out a Forest Fashion week**, use nature and ecosystems to inspire your clothing patterns and designs. [Ecology & Culture](#)
6. Weather and lack of suitable clothing are a big reason why people in the UK are reluctant to go outdoors more often. Why not **create a set of outdoor kits** that others in your community could use and borrow when they would like to work or relax outside. Think about the items you will need to include in these kits, maybe a summer kit with hats and sun cream and a winter kit with gloves and waterproof jackets. [Economy & Society](#)
7. **Research which trees are native to the UK** and then see if you can find them in your local community. When you find them, plot them on a local map to make a tree trail with interesting facts and information about the plants, animals and insects that live in or around these trees. [Ecology & Society](#)
8. **The national tree of England is the Oak**– investigate why this is and hold a day or week-long celebration in honour of the Oak tree. If there are any Oak trees in your school grounds, gardens or local community, how can you highlight their importance to others during this celebration? [Ecology, Economy, Society & Culture](#)



# The Forest Cycle: LEAF Action Plan cont.

9. Carry out a bird count to see which species of birds are living in and around trees in your community. Have these birds migrated back to the UK for spring and summer? If so from which countries, and how might their habitats be different compared to habitats in England? [Ecology & Society](#)
10. Research if there are any special trees, green spaces or plants and animals in your local community – are there any specific laws or codes to protect them? Once you have this information, consider writing a Legal LEAF news article that you can share with others to let them know why these trees, green spaces or plants and animals are so important and how they are legally protected. [Ecology & Economy](#)
11. Find out if there is a 'Friends of' group that cares for a local park or green space and see if your Forest Eco-Committee can join. If not, then why not set up your own and invite others to join? A perfect way to increase the size of your Forest Eco-Committee! [Society](#)
12. Hold a forest food festival to think about all the different foods we eat that grow in forests. Are there any traditional forest foods that may have been forgotten that your Forest Eco-Committee could reintroduce in your local community e.g. nettle soup (please make sure to get expert help and advice for this task). To make more simple, for younger children, the food festival could focus on fruits that grow on trees and exploring their different tastes. [Ecology, Economy, Society & Culture](#)
13. Take leaf prints and bark rubbings to create your own tree identification guide that others can use. [Ecology](#)
14. Don't forget the insects! Choose an area that you will develop to become a haven for all creatures. Did you know that one of our Eco-Schools currently holds the world record for the largest bug hotel in the world! Can you beat their record? [Ecology](#)
15. Spider Fan Club! Another common reason why young people (and adults) don't always like to go outside is because of 'creepy crawlies.' Why not start an appreciation club for some of our less cuddly forest ecosystem inhabitants. For instance think about the amazing properties of spider webs and how they could be used to help design and innovate new resources in the future. Don't forget the worms and woodlice too, without them our forest ecosystems would not be able to function! [Ecology, Economy & Culture](#)



Next: Create Your  
LEAF Action Plan





# LEAF Action Plan

Our Chosen LEAF Theme:

	Ecology	Economy	Society	Culture
LEAF Action				
Aim				
How long it will take				
Who is responsible				
How we will raise awareness				
How we will monitor awareness				
Evaluation				

# The Forest Cycle: Learning about Forests

To help 'green' education it is important to try to incorporate your LEAF actions and plans into as many areas of learning as possible. Through the LEAF programme the Forest Eco-Committee should aim to make outdoor education the new normal (regardless of the weather!)



## What You Need to Do:

### 1. Find and record 3 examples of learning relating to forest ecosystems.

Your Forest Eco-Committee needs to find and record 3 examples of learning relating to forest ecosystems. If you are delivering the LEAF programme as a school or home-schooler these examples can be from your teaching curriculum. If you are working through the LEAF programme as part of a youth group, these examples can come from your youth group's aims or objectives.

### Examples

Here are some ideas for 'less obvious' curriculum links your Forest Eco-Committee could invite others to try:

**English Literature:** How are forests, trees and nature portrayed in set texts?

**English Language:** Write a poem or persuasive statement for your Forest Eco-Code.

**History:** Estimate the age of a tree by its width (or using dendrochronology) to plot a timeline of events that have happened globally and locally during the tree's lifetime.

**PHSE:** Many may avoid utilising local forest areas for safety reasons, how can your Forest Eco-Committee work with the local community to help others feel safe in these spaces?

**Music:** Write a sounds of nature musical piece inspired by the green spaces in your local community. Or investigate the types of wood used to make woodwind instruments.

**Maths:** Trigonometry is a 'branch' of maths dealing with measurements of the angles and sides of triangles. Why not take these lessons outside and use trees to help teach Soh Cah Toa!

### Please Note:

We are happy for schools to give curriculum links examples from their Forest Schools work, however the aim of the LEAF programme globally is to normalise outdoor education so that multiple areas of the curriculum can be delivered outdoors during a regular school day. The more varied the curriculum examples your Forest Eco-Committee can find the greater levels of awareness they will instil in others.

## Next: Informing and Involving

# The Forest Cycle: Informing and Involving

The Forest Eco-Committee should try to spread their actions and messages across the community to help raise awareness of their LEAF theme.

#LEAF #LEAFrugi



## What You Need to Do:

### 1. Decide How to Inform & Involve Others

The main aim of the LEAF programme is to allow young people to raise awareness of the importance of forest ecosystems that are reflected in the different LEAF Themes your Forest Eco-Committee can pick from.

As a small group in a school, youth group or family (if home-schooling) it can feel difficult to have a big impact. However, through the LEAF programme you will be able to spread the word about your actions and encourage others to get involved so that (maybe slowly at first) your Forest Eco-Committee begins to grow and your impacts are not so small any more!

Your Forest Eco-Committee will need to think about the best way for them to let others know about their LEAF Theme actions, here are some of our favourites:

- Assemblies and Presentations
- Newsletters
- School or Youth Group Websites
- Blogs and YouTube Channels
- Local Press
- Writing to key members of the local community
- Completing our #LEAF 'Tree'mendous Task for families during the Easter and half-term break.

### 2. Inform & Involve Others

Once you have chosen how you are going to Inform & Involve others, it's time to do so! Don't forget to include Eco-Schools and Frugi in your social media LEAF posts.

Eco-Schools



Frugi



## Remember:

Circulating and collating responses for both your Environmental Forest Awareness Reviews is also part of the Informing and Involving section of the Forest Cycle.

## Next: Monitoring and Evaluation

# The Forest Cycle: Monitoring and Evaluation

The goal of the LEAF programme is to allow young people to lead behavioural change and increase awareness of their LEAF Theme. The Forest Eco-Committee should carry out a second Environmental Forest Awareness Review to assess if their LEAF actions have been successful.



## MONITORING & EVALUATING

### What You Need to Do:

#### 1. Conduct Your Environmental Forest Awareness Review (Again)

Once your Forest Eco-Committee have completed the tasks on their Action Plan it is time to see if they have been successful in raising awareness of their chosen LEAF Theme in their school, youth group or local community. In order to do this your Forest Eco-Committee will need to send out their Environmental Forest Awareness Review again– ideally to the same people. Making sure to keep all the same questions as before and checking if there are any noticeable responses in the answers you receive.

Please do not worry if your second responses are not what you expected this could be for a wide variety of reasons that are beyond the control of your Forest Eco-Committee, especially if you were not able to ask the same people due to restrictions.

#### 2. Think About the success of your LEAF Actions

For your LEAF Award application we will ask you and your Forest Eco-Committee if you think your LEAF Theme actions have been a success. As the LEAF programme is designed to be youth led it is very important for us to hear how they felt their actions have gone and how they may wish to expand or adapt similar actions again in the future.

### Next: Creating a Forest Code



# The Forest Cycle: Forest Eco-Code

The Forest Eco-Committee should decide on a Forest Eco-Code that promotes and celebrates their LEAF Theme actions in the local community.



## What You Need to Do:

### 1. Create a Forest Eco-Code

Your Forest Eco-Committee and those who have helped with your LEAF Theme actions will need to create a forest code that symbolises the work and achievements you have made whilst participating in the LEAF programme. Remember, your Forest Eco-Code must link to the LEAF Theme your Forest Eco-Committee have chosen... and there are no rules for this section, only that you have fun and get creative!

### 2. Apply for your LEAF Award!

Once you have worked through all of sections on the Forest Cycle you will then be able to apply for your LEAF Award during June/ July 2021 via the Eco-Schools England website.

## Important LEAF Award Information

- The LEAF programme and award are FREE.
- When a school, youth group or home-schooler achieves the LEAF Award they will be sent an e-certificate and an electronic copy of the LEAF logo to use in recognition of their achievement.
- The LEAF programme and award are annual: schools, youth groups and home-schoolers will need to register at the start of every September and submit a new LEAF Award application every June/July in order to retain the LEAF Award.
- The LEAF Award expires after one year if the school, youth group or home-schoolers do not re-register and submit a new LEAF application in the summer term. In this case use of the LEAF logo is no longer allowed.
- Each year schools, youth groups or home-schoolers must change the LEAF Theme they choose to work on, however they are welcome to link this new Theme to previous LEAF Theme work and actions.



# Applying for LEAF Award

The annual LEAF Award application window opens on 1st June 2021 and closes on Friday 30th July 2021.

Participation in the LEAF programme can also be used as evidence for schools applying for their first or renewal Eco-Schools Green Flag.



To apply for your LEAF Award, from 1st June 2021, you will need to complete this final, Applying for LEAF Award section. You can then scan and upload to the Eco-Schools website, or alternatively e-mail to: [eco-chools@keepbritaintidy.org](mailto:eco-chools@keepbritaintidy.org). Please note this version is designed to be handwritten with your LEAF participants, if you want to complete the application electronically, a word version is available on the **LEAF Pages of the Eco-Schools website**.



Chosen LEAF Theme:	
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How were your Forest Eco-Committee members chosen?

How many young people were part of your Forest Eco-Committee?			
What are the age ranges of the young people on your Forest Eco-Committee?			
Have your Forest Eco-Committee been given any key roles such as minutes taker or chairperson?	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No
Yes	No		
How many adults are part of your Forest Eco-Committee?			
What are their roles in your school, youth group or family?			
How many Forest Eco-Committee meetings have you held for the LEAF			



# Applying for LEAF Award cont.



How many people completed your first Environmental Forest Awareness Review?	
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In the space below, please write the additional questions that your Forest Eco-Committee added to their Environmental Forest Awareness Review for their chosen LEAF Theme (5 questions recommended).



Did you choose to work on any of the optional Forest Sub Themes?	Yes	No
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If yes, which one?		
Forest Laws and Codes	Forest Myths	Forest Creativity and Innovation

Typical number of hours spent outside on LEAF work each week?	
Typical number of young people involved in LEAF outdoor activity?	
Typical number of adults involved in LEAF outdoor activity?	
Typical number of LEAF activities undertaken each week?	

**Please also include/upload a copy of your LEAF Action Plan**

# Applying for LEAF Award cont.



Please give 3 examples of how your chosen LEAF Theme has been covered in the curriculum or outdoor learning.




Please give 3 examples of how you have informed and involved others in your actions for your chosen LEAF Theme.




# Applying for LEAF Award cont.



## MONITORING & EVALUATING

How many people completed your second Environmental Forest Awareness Review?		
Was there an improvement in the responses that were given?	Yes	No
Which of your actions do you think was the most successful at raising awareness of your chosen LEAF Theme and why?		



## ECO-CODE

Please tell us your Forest Eco-Code  
(If it doesn't fit in the box below, your Forest Eco-Code can be uploaded separately).

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