



Forest code

Time to complete: 30 minutes

Recommended for: EYFS & KS1, KS2

EYFS statutory framework links:

Communication and language

Understanding the world

National curriculum links:

Science: Living things and their habitats

English: Spoken language

You will need

- [The Countryside Code](#)
- [The Forest Code | Forestry England](#)
- Copies of pupils' worksheet
- Pens and pencils

Introduction

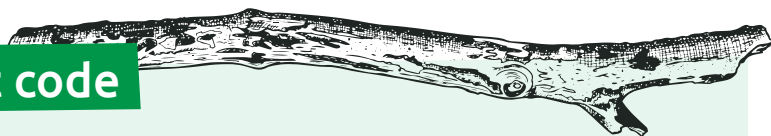
The forest environment may be a new or unfamiliar environment to your class. These activities explore how pupils can keep themselves and others safe, whilst also respecting the animals and plants that call the forest home.

Before you start

Have your pupils heard of the [The Countryside Code](#)? It might be helpful to have a look at that before doing these activities.

1

Write your own forest code



Explain to your pupils that they need to come up with ideas for a 'forest code.' This will remind them how to behave in the forest and to respect the animals and plants that live there.

Here are some discussion points to get you started:

- 1 Do you have any school or classroom rules? Can your pupils remember what they are?
- 2 Discuss whether or not any of these rules may apply in the forest.
- 3 Can your pupils think of any new rules that might be applicable in the forest?

This is the start of your forest code, carry on and then do the next two activities to see if you might make any changes.

2

The forest as a home for wildlife

For teachers

- 1 Ask your class to name some animals or plants that live in the forest.
- 2 How do your pupils think the animals and plants feel when people wander into their home?
- 3 Ask your pupils to close their eyes and imagine:



"You are a minibeast nestled happily underneath a log. It is a cold and wet day so you are grateful to be cosy and dry with plenty of decaying wood and leaf litter to eat. All of a sudden you hear footsteps and the log you are nestled under gets lifted high up into the air and thrown far away. You look up to see a child running off into the distance. You wonder why they wanted to take your home away. You start to feel cold and hungry as you begin the search to find somewhere new to shelter."



- 4 Ask your pupils, as minibeasts, how they feel? Remind them that the forest is the home for a variety of animals and plants and we need to respect them.

Is there anything you would like to add or change about your forest code?

3

How do we stay safe in the forest?

Explain that you are going to read out some statements and they will need to decide which ones are true and which ones are false. Encourage your pupils to discuss the statement with a partner before deciding.

Statements:

- We should wear our pyjamas to the forest
- We should close our eyes whilst we walk around the forest
- We should stay together so we don't get lost
- We should share some of our lunch with a squirrel
- We should take all of our rubbish home
- We shouldn't eat anything we find in the forest
- We should try to be quiet, so we don't scare the wildlife
- We should pick lots of flowers in the forest to take home
- We should light a fire to keep us warm

Having completed the above activities, do your class want to make changes to their forest code?



Compare your class forest code to the one from Forestry England and note any differences

The Forest Code
Forestry England





Forestry England

For pupils

Write or draw your forest code to remind you and others how to stay safe and protect the forest.

