

Caring For The Forest

The forest is a renewable resource, and the planting and harvesting of trees is part of a natural and necessary cycle of events. Perhaps you will be surprised to read below how many people are working hard to look after our forests.

CARING FOR THE FOREST

1. The Surveyor

Maps the land and takes account of climate, wind speed and different types of soil.

2. The Scientist

Advises the forester which trees will grow fastest, give the best timber, resist pests and provide the best habitats for wildlife.

3. The Landscape Designer

Makes sure that when forests are planted or felled, the work does not spoil the look of the surrounding countryside.

4. The Nursery Worker

Sows the seed beds in spring, then covers them with a layer of gravel to stop the seeds drying out or blowing away. When they are 2-3 years old, the trees can be planted.

5. The Planter

Plants the young trees by hand after the ground has been prepared. The planter puts the trees into holes which have been dug with a spade, then closes the earth firmly round the tree with their heel.

WHAT TO DO:

Work in a small group. Use the information on this sheet and any other details or drawings in any reference books you can find, to help you form a good picture of the people who work to care for the forests. You should be clear about any special clothing, tools or equipment they use.

Draw and paint pictures of these people and mount them on a background showing a forest to make a mural. Design a key to link your pictures with a description of each job written in your own words.

6. The Weeder/Fertilizer

Weeds by hand or uses herbicides. Often helicopters with hoppers full of fertilizer are used to spread fertilizer on poor soil.

7. The Harvester

Thins poorer trees every few years to give more light and space to stronger ones. The thinnings are used for poles or making paper.

Fells full-grown trees when conifers are about 70 years old and broad-leaved trees about 100 years old. The feller uses a chainsaw and wears special clothes.

8. The Forester

Makes sure the forests are for *everyone* (multi-purpose). This means managing the forests to:

- > create a good yield of timber
- > create and protect habitats for a wide variety of plants and animals.
- > help the forest contribute to a beautiful and healthy environment
- > enable people to enjoy the forest for a wide variety of leisure activities.