Tree Hugger

Activity One – Ask your partners the following questions and answer yourselves, then report back to the group.

1. Do you like to be close to nature?
2. What makes you feel close to nature?
3. Do you ever hug trees?
4. How do you think our natural environment will evolve in the future?
5. Are you concerned about the future of the environment?
6. Have you ever planted a tree?
7. If you had a big garden what type of trees would you plant?
8. Do you sometimes admire trees?
9. Do you think trees are an important part of your life?
10. Do you try to avoid wasting paper?



Activity Two – **Future tenses -** There are several different ways in English that you can talk about the future. Here are the most important ones:

Predictions/statements of fact - The auxiliary verb **will** is used in making predictions or simple statements of fact about the future.

- The sun **will** rise at 6.30 tomorrow.
- In the year 2050 there will be less trees than there are today.
- If we respect the environment, our children **will** have a better future.
- **Will** it snow for Christmas, will the trees be white?

Intentions - The auxiliary verb **going to** is used in talking about intentions. (An intention is a plan for the future that you have already thought about.)

- We're **going to** buy an olive tree next week for our garden.
- I'm **going to** work in a garden center when I leave school ,I love trees.
- In the new year I'm **going to** start recycling more paper.
- Are you **going to** climb a tree after school?
- How are you **going to** decorate your christmas tree?

Arrangements- The *present continuous* tense is used in talking about arrangements. (An arrangement is is a plan for the future that you have already thought about *and discussed with someone else*.)

- I**'m meeting** my friends in the forest tomorrow to go for a walk.
- Our grandparents **are buying** us a big tree this Christmas.
- My sister**'s going** to the doctor this afternoon, she fell when climbing a big tree.
- **Are** you **doing** anything on Sunday morning? Would you like to come and help build our tree house?

Activity Three – The future of our forests. Read the New York Times article and then answer the questions with your team. Use the dictionary if you don't understand something. Let's see which team answers the questions the most quickly and correctly!

Europe's forests have been expanding for the last 60 years. But the **rate** at which forests are growing in Europe is slowing, and forested areas face even more **acute** challenges in the future because of climate change, the E.U. commissioner for the environment, warned today.

"Europe's forests are a precious resource," he said at a news conference at E.U. headquarters in Brussels. "Their wide range of social, economic and environmental functions means that the **stakes** are high."

Forest and wooded areas cover more than 40 percent of the EU and account for 5 percent of the world's forests. They also represent an important so-called **sink** for absorbing carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas.

Mr. Potocnik said the state of Europe's forests was considerably healthier than in other parts of the world, where deforestation was under way and contributing to 12 to 15 percent of global CO_2 emissions. But he said that **a host of demands** were placing new pressures on forested lands in Europe, meaning that Europe's forests could become a source, rather than a sink, for CO_2 emissions by 2020, according to the discussion paper.

Those demands included increasing need for pasture to meet food needs, use of croplands to produce biofuels and conversion of land for urban development, Mr. Potocnik said. In the future, there will also be more demand for forest products from the renewable energy industry for biomass products to burn for heat and electricity.

That means there is an economic incentive to remove biomass that currently feeds wildfires in abandoned forests.

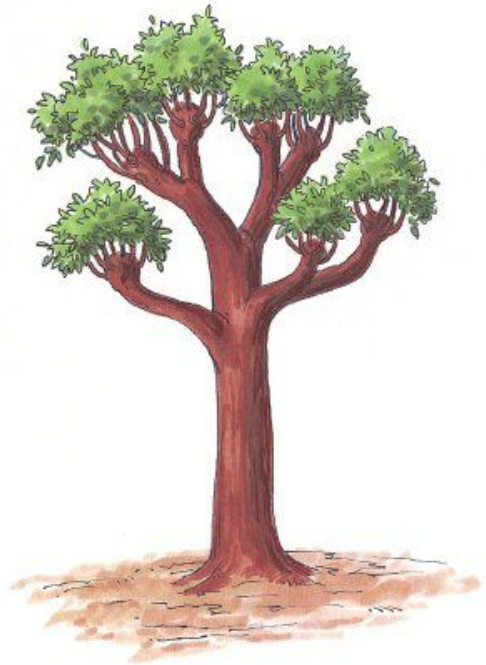
But potentially the greatest threat to forests was from climate change, which Mr. Potocnik said had already driven up average temperatures in Europe by 1 degree Celsius in the past century and threatens to unleash deadly pests, set off more forest fires and destructive storms and alter the suitability of entire regions for certain types of forest.



http://www.treehugger.com/

QUESTIONS :

1. Explain the expression –‘ the **rate** at which forests are growing is slowing’ (write it in a different way).
2. Explain the expression- ‘forested areas face even more **acute** challenges’ (write it in a different way).
3. What does the expression ‘the **stakes** are high’ mean?
4. What proportion of the worlds forests are in Europe ?
5. What is a ‘**sink’** in the context of the article ?
6. Who is Mr **Potocnik**?
7. Explain the expression ‘a **host** of demands’
8. Why are European forests threatened?
9. What will happen to the forests of Europe in the future?
10. How will climate change affect forests in the future ?



Activity Four - Save our forests. Work with your partner. Predict what will happen in the future, what laws will be made and inventions to save our forests. Present your ideas to the rest of the class using the future tense.

Activity Six - Listen to the song and assemble the images in the order you hear them. (Rush – The trees).

There is unrest in the forest,
There is trouble with the trees,
For the maples want more sunlight
And the oaks ignore their pleas.

The trouble with the maples,
(And they're quite convinced they're right)
They say the oaks are just too lofty
And they grab up all the light.
But the oaks can't help their feelings
If they like the way they're made.
And they wonder why the maples
Can't be happy in their shade.

There is trouble in the forest,
And the creatures all have fled,
As the maples scream "Oppression!"
And the oaks just shake their heads

So the maples formed a union
And demanded equal rights.
"The oaks are just too greedy;
We will make them give us light."
Now there's no more oak oppression,
For they passed a noble law,
And the trees are all kept equal
By hatchet, axe, and saw



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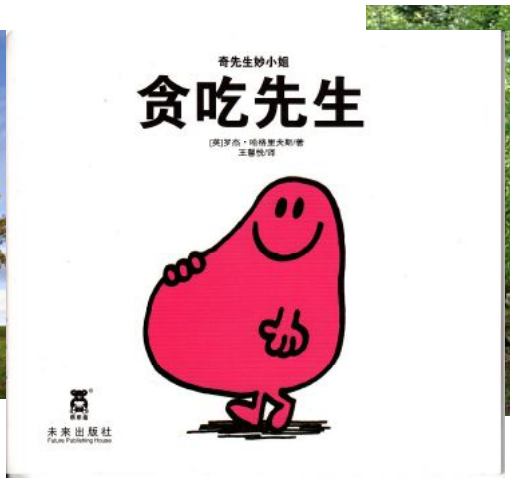


















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