The Secrets of Future Forests

Tinta Vital
Forests cover one third of the Earth’s surface and without them humans and animals could not survive!

Forests help conserve and clean our water.

They generate jobs for millions of people around the world.

The plants and animals of a forest ecosystem depend on each other to survive and thrive.

Forests are home to the majority (80%) of all land-based plant and animal species!

March 21 is the International Day of Forests. What can you and your friends do for forests on their special day?
All around the world, plants and animals are feeling the effects of a changing planet...

Plants... Animals... And giants!
Yes... I know we are all worried about our home...
Wait, I hear someone coming!

Yes, but what can we do about it?
We are just kids, Sylvia! What can we do about it?

Pedro, we can't just sit back and watch our planet be damaged! The climate is changing, temperatures are rising, and plants, animals and people are affected.

I'm not sure, but let's investigate the forest to find some answers!

I know forests are a big part of the solution because a lot of communities depend on them for clean air and water!

Good idea! There must be answers in the forest!

We must put our hearts and minds toward figuring this out. Scientists say our future depends on it! There must be a solution... something we can do!

I worry about the world's great forests vanishing, together with their amazing wildlife, but... I don't know what we can do about it!!!
WORAH!!?

You’re a giant!!!

Sylvester here, pleased to meet you!
Don't be alarmed, I overheard and feel the same way! I'm so glad you two want to help solve this climate challenge!

You do?!
Well, we are investigating the forest to find solutions; do you want to join us? What do you know about climate change?

I know that scientists say that climate change warms our planet and causes major disruptions to the natural world... melting ice, creating droughts, making wildfires more dangerous, and causing animals to lose their home.

Yeah, and there are many sources to these problems - so many things are adding carbon into the atmosphere!

We know that trees and forests capture carbon from the air and turn it into leaves and branches that continue to grow and catch more carbon.
Wow! So that's one reason why forests are a big part of the solution!

Yes, forests are huge carbon reservoirs: they are the ultimate renewable resource!

We need to take good care of forests!!! For our own future, we must ensure the future of our forests.

We also need trees to make houses, paper, toys and other products... All this creates jobs and... We cannot prosper without USING forests!!!

Let's look at some of the challenges we face!

Huh?!
How do forests serve life on Earth?

Where does wildlife live?

Can you see how the roots hold soil in place and protect it from the rain and wind?

See how soil absorbs rain, and filters it...

And provides clean and abundant water!

Forests regulate local temperatures and provide clean air.

How do forests contribute to your own well-being?
Wow Sylvester, you can shrink us?! What a trick!

Hummingbirds are good friends of mine.

It's good to learn why the amazing web of life is unraveling, but it's sad...SAD...

We are damaging the wild places where life has evolved and thrived over millions of years...

We are losing the most amazing feature of our planet, BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY!*

*Biodiversity is the humongous variety of plants and animals on our planet, including the geographic locations where they are found.

Forests are key to life on Earth, and for our own civilization! What can we do to care for life here, in a forest?

Hmm... Good question. Would you like to climb up to my head?

**YES!!!!**
Ahhh, with a landscape perspective one can think more clearly!

YES...
A reason why the world's forests disappear is the removal of trees to use the land for something other than as a forest.

Wouldn't we make more money if we sold the forest to make room for houses or to grow food?

Yes, we could make more buildings and stores instead, and make our town bigger!

But the green spaces are really important for us to play in, and the wild animals need somewhere to live!

The forest is important to all of us! I am sure we can strike the right balance!

Won't our children want to see and enjoy the forest?
How can we keep forests and use them at the same time?

Yeah, how can forests be used today in a way that we can enjoy abundant forests in the future?

This is a really important question... Let's investigate!

Hey, Sylvester, wriggle your fingers again and take us to a place in the Universe where the solutions already exist, will you?

Good idea! Let's find out what we can do to take care of forests!
Hello everyone!
Please tell us how to meet the needs of today while ensuring we can also meet the needs of future generations.

This is the meaning of the word “SUSTAINABLE”.

This means using the forest in a smart way, so its goodness can be enjoyed now and in the future.

Harvest trees, but conserve the forest and its soil: they provide clean water!

Respect forests as home to many wildlife!

Care for breeding and nesting places!

Please respect older trees because they produce seeds, and baby trees...

And be sure to plant new trees!
Forests are a source of jobs for millions of families around the world.

How many forest-based products can you see around you just now?

Forests provide raw materials for a huge number of products. Like pencils... or even ice cream!

Mom, paper packaging is better for the planet than all that plastic which pollutes our oceans!

Sustainable forest management means making sure that forests are healthy, yes, but also productive.

Wood products that have long lives, like furniture, store carbon and keep it out of the atmosphere!

Loggers must receive training on how to use forest land responsibly.

And research is necessary to continually improve forest stewardship!

So, using a forest responsibly means caring for the environment, and also for the community and the economy.
Good forest stewardship cares about landscape beauty.

And provides recreational opportunities for people.

Hiking in the woods is good for my body, mind and spirit!

Forests are good, fun teachers. And what they have to teach is fascinating!

If you want activities for children to learn from and about forests, check out PROJECT LEARNING TREE!

Sustainably managed forests provide communities with clean air and water.

Forest fires are now more frequent. But if a forest is sustainably managed, fires do less harm.

But how can we know if all these sustainable forestry practices are really put into practice?

There must BEE a way for us to check with a label or symbol!
This is what a certification label looks like:

SFI on-product labels help people find products that come from organizations certified to an SFI standard.

When people use this symbol, it means we are doing the right thing to manage forests for all sort of benefits.

Working together we can find solutions to many of the world’s problems.

That’s why SFI works with the forest sector, nature conservation groups, academics, researchers, companies, educators, landowners, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and governments.

Supporting forest certification is one of the best things you can do for forests.
Certification is one important part of the solution, and there are many ways you can help support the planet, like having a green job when you're older.

There are lots of jobs that help the environment! Let's take a look at a few...

- Forester
- Environmental Educator
- Natural Resource Economist
- Nature Photographer
- Wildland Firefighter
- Architect
- Wood Scientist
- Paper manufacturer
- Hydrologist
- Packaging Technologist
- Carbon modeler

And many more!
Hey, kiddos, you tickle my head! Would you mind hopping back onto my hand?

Ha ha haaaa!
Now that we know that a really good solution is being put into practice by organizations like SFI, what can us kids do for forests?

Let's begin by looking for the certification label when we buy things.

And make better choices for the planet, where we can!

We could work together as a team! Would you like that?

I like the way you're thinking!

WE STAND FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR FORESTS!
Sylvester, you’re truly great! I’m really glad we’ll be working together!

Me too!!

Pleased to be part of your team standing up for the future of our forests!

We can all take actions to take care of our forests!

Let’s bring all our school friends here to meet Sylvester!

Sylvia!

Ahhh!... We’re a team with the forests!
The Sustainable Forestry Initiative:
Envisions a world that values and benefits from sustainably managed forests.

SFI certifies forests larger than the size of Japan, Spain, and New Zealand - combined!

SFI-certified organizations harvest less than 1% of their forests every year, and plant more than 3 million trees per day in the US and Canada.

Look for the SFI label. It’s on over 300,000 products sold in nearly 120 countries, showing they come from well-managed forests!

www.forests.org

https://www.facebook.com/SustainableForestryInitiative
https://twitter.com/sfiprogram
https://www.youtube.com/user/SFIProgram

SFI CANADA
1306 Wellington Street
West Suite 400
Ottawa, ON, K1Y 3B2
Phone: 613-747-2454

SFI USA
2121 K Street, NW,
Suite 750
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: 202-596-3450
LOOK AROUND YOU...
Do you recognize products that come from a forest and make your life better?

4 EASY THINGS YOU CAN DO TO SUPPORT FORESTS:

★ Ask your parents to buy products that are responsibly made and do not damage the environment.

★ Install a bird feeder and plant a native garden for pollinators like bees and butterflies.

★ Start a recycling project at your school.

★ Learn more about forest plants and animals. You will find lots of activities at PLT.org

The impact of responsibly-managed forests is seen through all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 15 – Life on Land.

"Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss".