

WHAT IS THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL?

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is an international, non-governmental organisation. Our mission is to promote environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests. Since its foundation in 1994, FSC has grown to become the world's most respected and widespread forest certification system.

FSC's pioneering certification system, which now covers more than 160 million hectares of forest, enables businesses and consumers to choose wood, paper and other forest products made with materials that support responsible forestry.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

The 'What is FSC' PowerPoint presentation covers:

- The FSC logo
- The meaning of 'Forest Stewardship Council'
- FSC membership
- Indigenous people and forests
- Plants and animals in forests
- How forests help manage water and protect soils
- Forests and climate change
- The history and benefits of using wood
- Other forest-based products
- Deforestation
- How FSC-certified companies are checked
- FSC labels

The slides are accompanied by a suggested script, which is available both in the presenter notes and below/overleaf with a description of the content of each slide. Please feel free to modify the presentation by adding your own slides or deleting those you don't need.

Script

Slide 1 asks 'What is the Forest Stewardship Council'?

Slide 2 shows the FSC logo and asks children where they have seen it and if they know what it means.

This logo belongs to the Forest Stewardship Council, also known as FSC.

You might have seen the logo on things like boxes of food, packets of toilet roll or wooden furniture.

Slide 3 highlights the 'forest' element of 'Forest Stewardship Council'.

The Forest Stewardship Council is an organisation that works in lots of different countries around the world to protect forests.

Slide 4 highlights the 'stewardship' element of 'Forest Stewardship Council'.

Stewardship means supervising or taking care of something. FSC takes care of forests by making rules for the people who look after forests, and other businesses, to follow.

Slide 5 highlights the 'council' element of 'Forest Stewardship Council'.

FSC is run by members. These are organizations and individual people who come up with ideas about what FSC should do and how it should be done. They vote to decide on which ideas FSC should focus.

Slide 6 explains FSC membership.

When a member joins FSC they are put into one of three groups: social, environmental or economic. Which group they are in will depend on what kind of views they represent. When the members vote on a topic, each group gets an equal share of the vote so that decisions are balanced between the needs of people, the environment and businesses. We'll learn more about why forests are important for these different groups in the next sections.

Slide 7 asks 'Why are forests important?' - the children could be invited to answer

Slide 8 shows a member of the Paiter Suruí Indigenous People from Brazil

Have you ever spent time in a forest?

Lots of different people live, work and play in forests around the world.

Some forests are home to Indigenous Peoples, the first people known to have lived in an area. There are more than 5000 groups of Indigenous Peoples in the world, speaking around 4000 different languages. Indigenous Peoples often have a close connection with their environment.

Slide 9 shows a monkey in an FSC-certified forest in Argentina.

80% of the plants and animals that live on land, live in forests.

What plants or animals do you know that live in forests?

Slide 10 shows a flooded road.

Forests help to prevent flooding and stop soil being washed away. Flooding and landslides can put people and animals in danger.

Slide 11 shows a climate protest.

Trees and plants in forests absorb harmful gases which cause climate change.

Slide 12 asks 'Why use wood?'

Slide 13 shows a wooden cabin.

Wood is one of the oldest building materials in existence. Humans have used it to make tools, buildings and more for thousands of years.

Slide 14 lists key benefits of using wood and shows a forest worker planing a tree sapling.

Wood is renewable, meaning it can be grown and harvested again and again. It can also be recycled. Wood can be used instead of less sustainable materials such as concrete and plastic.

Slide 15 lists products other than wood that can come from forests and shows FSC-certified maple syrup and maple butter.

Wood isn't the only product that can come from forests. Tree pulp can be made into paper and fabrics, natural cork, rubber and maple syrup come from trees and bamboo can grow in forests.

Slide 16 shows a forest in Cambodia being cleared to grow crops.

But not all forests are the same. Some forests face being damaged or even destroyed.

When a forest is destroyed, the trees are burnt or cut and not replanted or allowed to regrow and the forest is lost – this is permanent deforestation. In the last 10,000 years the world has lost one third of its forests.

Slide 17 shows someone checking a digital forest map.

FSC-certified forest managers and companies trading in forest-based products are checked to make sure they are doing the right things

Organisations called 'certification bodies' check that companies that own forests, or make products using materials from forests, meet the FSC rules. This is called auditing. Companies that pass the test can sell FSC-certified forest products.

Slide 18 shows a visual representation of an FSC-certified supply chain.

There can be lots of different companies buying and selling materials and products between the forest where they are grown and the shop that sells a product made with those materials. If a product is FSC certified, every company in this chain must be audited.

Slide 19 shows an FSC label on wooden garden furniture.

Products that meet FSC's rules can have an FSC label put on them by companies that have passed an audit.

Look out for labels like this on wood, paper and other products next time you are shopping.

THANK YOU

For questions and queries:

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