

# FACTIVITY

## PLANNING YOUR OWN FOREST

### TIME NEEDED

One class period

### MATERIALS

(for each student or group of students)

- Blank paper
- Writing utensil
- Crayons, colored pencils, or colored markers
- Planning Your Own Forest Graphic Organizer

In this FACTivity, you will create a forest management plan for a 1-hectare (or 1-acre) forest. You will make this plan by using the Planning Your Own Forest Graphic Organizer on page 58. Since this forest is a creation of your imagination, it can contain any kind of trees, other plants, and animals that you want.

### METHODS

1. Take a blank piece of paper. You will draw a picture of your forest on this paper.
  2. Draw two native tree species that grow in your forest. Remember, you can make up any kind of tree, or you can draw trees that you are familiar with from your area or from your research.
  3. Draw two native mammal species that live in your forest. You can make up these mammals or you can draw mammals that you are familiar with from your area or from your research.
  4. Draw two native bird species that live in your forest. You can make up these birds or you can draw birds with which you are familiar.
  5. Make a list of other features that are found in your forest. For example, you might find a stream or river in your forest. You might find waterfalls. You might find a lake in your forest. What other features are found in your forest? Once you have a list, draw these features in your picture.
  6. On a separate piece of paper, make a list of the benefits your forest provides. If you need a reminder, review Inquiry 2: Benefits of Healthy Forests.
  7. Once you have completed your forest picture, give your forest a name and write it on the paper.
- Unfortunately, a cyclone, typhoon, hurricane, or tornado has recently passed across your forest, destroying the trees. Fortunately, the wildlife escaped unharmed. They have left your forest, however, because their habitat was destroyed. It is your job to make a plan to restore your forest. You will use the Planning Your Own Forest Graphic Organizer that follows to make a plan to restore your forest to a healthy condition.
8. Using the Planning Your Own Forest Graphic Organizer, list your goals for restoring your forest. What benefits do you want the forest to provide? How are these benefits similar or different to the benefits your original forest provided? How long will it take to restore the forest?
  9. Using a blank piece of paper, draw the shape of your forest. Draw features like streams, ponds, lakes, and trails you want within the forest.
  10. Use the Planning Your Own Forest Graphic Organizer to detail how you will meet your goals for the forest. When will you complete each part of the plan? For example, will planting trees come before or after making trails? How many trees will you plant? Which species of trees? Where exactly will those trees be planted?
  11. If you want to use your forest for recreation, show on your map where you will put a trail. Identify when you will put the trail in place and how long you think it will take to complete the trail. Be sure to name the trail.
  12. If you need to create a special habitat to attract your wildlife or bird species back to your forest, describe what you will do, where you will do it, and when it will be done.

# PLANNING YOUR OWN FOREST GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Forest Management Plan for \_\_\_\_\_ Forest.

What are your goals for your forest? Your goals should include whether you want to have the forest managed for recreation, timber production, wildlife habitat, or other benefits.

My goals for \_\_\_\_\_ Forest are:

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How long will it take to achieve these goals?

I would like to achieve these goals in \_\_\_\_\_.

What will you do to achieve your goals?

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When you have finished your plan, look again at your original picture of your forest. How did your restoration activities improve your forest?

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