

All About Forests

Table of Contents

All About Forests1
Woodsy Owl® Wonders 23
Woodsy Owl's® Words 24
Try This! 25
Coloring Pages 26
Possibility Possum Poem..... 29
About Woodsy Owl® Back Cover



Woodsy Owl's® words are in **bold**.

<https://www.naturalinquirer.org>

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/learn/kids/woodsy-owl>



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One of Woodsy Owl's® famous sayings is, "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!" Woodsy Owl® likes to lend a hand and care for the land by helping take care of **forests**.

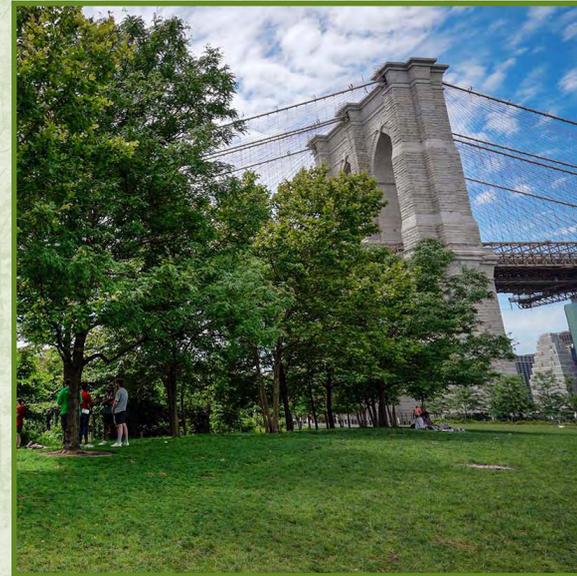


Forests are areas mostly covered with trees and other plants.

Woodsy Owl® wants to teach you about different types of forests. Woodsy Owl® also wants to share why forests are important.



There are many different types of forests. Some forests are small, and some forests are really big!



This small forest is in Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York.



This big forest is El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico.

Some forests belong to groups, businesses, and people.



This forest belongs to a group in Connecticut.

You might find a small patch of forest in a friend's backyard or in an **urban** area.



This forest in Maine belongs to a person.



Urban areas have many people, buildings, and roads.



State and city parks can have forests.
These lands belong to everyone.



These trees are
in a New York
City park.



Black Rock
Mountain
State Park
is located in
Georgia.

There are also national forests and parks.
These lands also belong to everyone.



Coronado National
Forest is in Arizona.
Mt. Hood National
Forest is in Oregon.



National forests are managed by the
Forest Service. The Forest Service is an
agency in the USDA, which stands for
U.S. Department of Agriculture.



We **value** forests for many different things. There are many **benefits** that humans get from forests.



We use wood from forests to make paper. We also use wood from forests to make furniture and to build houses.



Value means that you think that something is important or good.
A benefit is a good or helpful result.

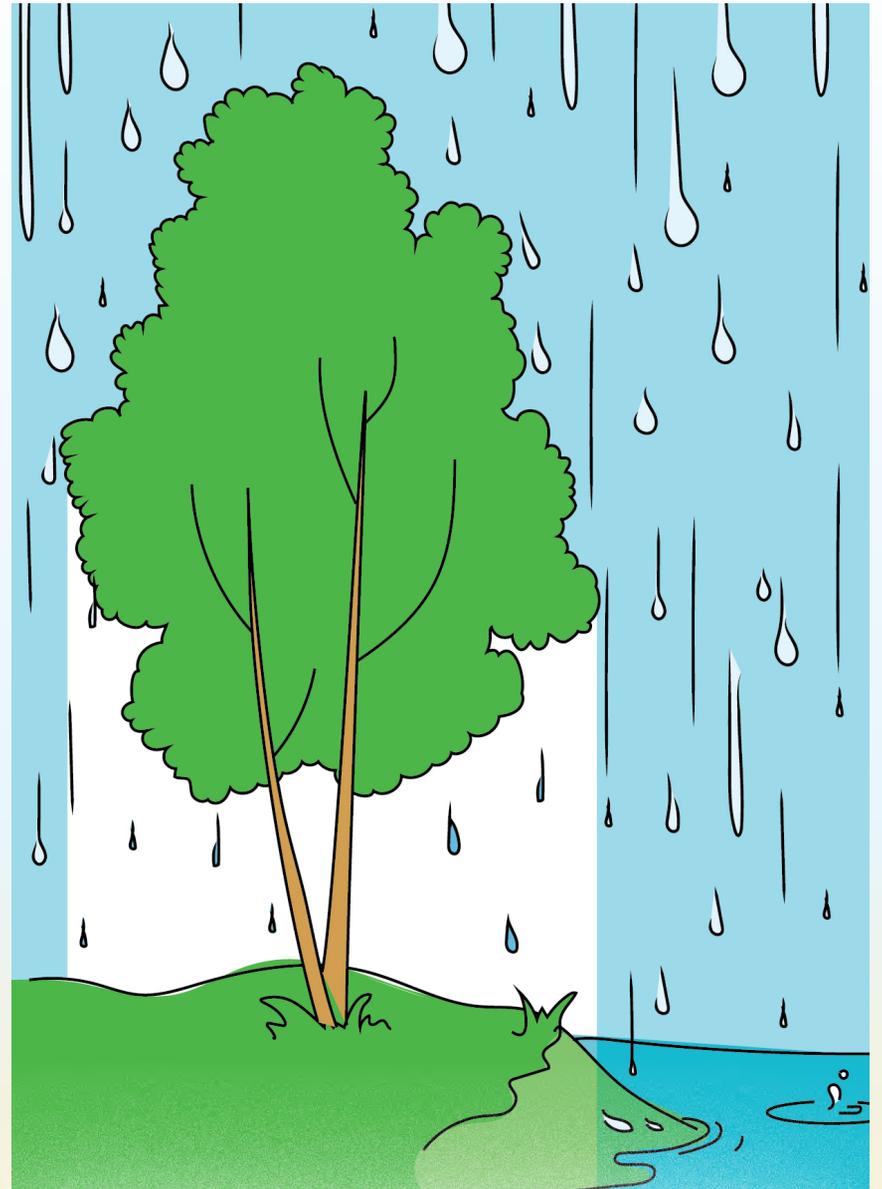
People can get food from forests. These blueberries are from Tongass National Forest in Alaska.



Remember, never eat anything from a forest without checking with an adult.



Forests give us clean water and air.



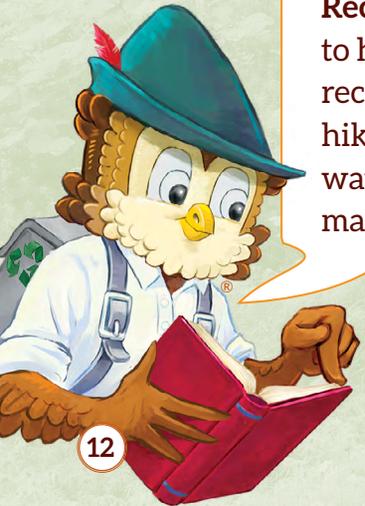
Trees help slow down rain as it falls. When rain slows down, flooding slows down or may even stop.

People use forests for recreation.



These kids are skiing in Payette National Forest in Idaho.

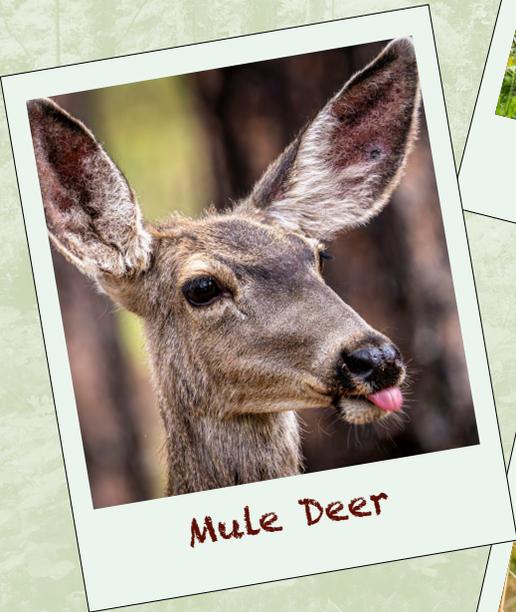
Recreation means something we do to have fun or relax. For example, recreation in the forest may include hiking, biking, fishing, skiing, watching wildlife, boating, and many other activities.



These people are hiking in Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah.

People also enjoy forests for their beauty. Some people like to take photos of the forest. Some people take photos of animals in the forest.

Some people like to take walks in the forest or see the beauty from viewing areas.



Forests help the soil. Tree and plant roots keep soil in place.

Forests also give us shade and places to cool off when it gets hot.



Forests give us **minerals**. In the photo below, you can see gold. Gold is a mineral.



Minerals are natural and usually come from the ground. An example of a mineral is gold or silver.



Forests give animals and plants a place to live.



These fish and baby birds live in the forest.



Many people lend a hand to care for forests. Some people care for forests by removing fallen trees. Some people care for forests by picking up trash.

Some people care for forests by learning all about them and teaching other people about forests. There are many ways to lend a hand and care for forests!



We can all lend a hand and care for forests! Here are a few ideas.

- 🍃 Don't leave trash behind.
- 🍃 Stay on the trail when you are hiking.
- 🍃 Don't hurt trees by carving your name in trees or tearing off leaves or branches.
- 🍃 Put out campfires all the way.
- 🍃 Watch wildlife from a safe distance.



This child views wildlife from a safe distance in Custer Gallatin National Forest in Montana.



We've asked a lot of questions while we learned about forests. Here are some other interesting questions to think about and answer!

WOODSY OWL® WONDERS...

1. Woodsy Owl® says, "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land." What are some ways you can care for the land?

2. In this Reader, you learned about some of the benefits of forests. What is one way you have benefited from a forest?

3. What kind of recreation do you like to do when you are in a forest?