



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



FOREST
INSPIRED
NATURE
DISCOVERY™

Natural Inquirer Reader Series

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All About Forests



All About Forests

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Woodsy Owl's® words are in **bold.**

<https://www.naturalinquirer.org>

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



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

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.



This forest in Maine belongs to a person.

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



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.

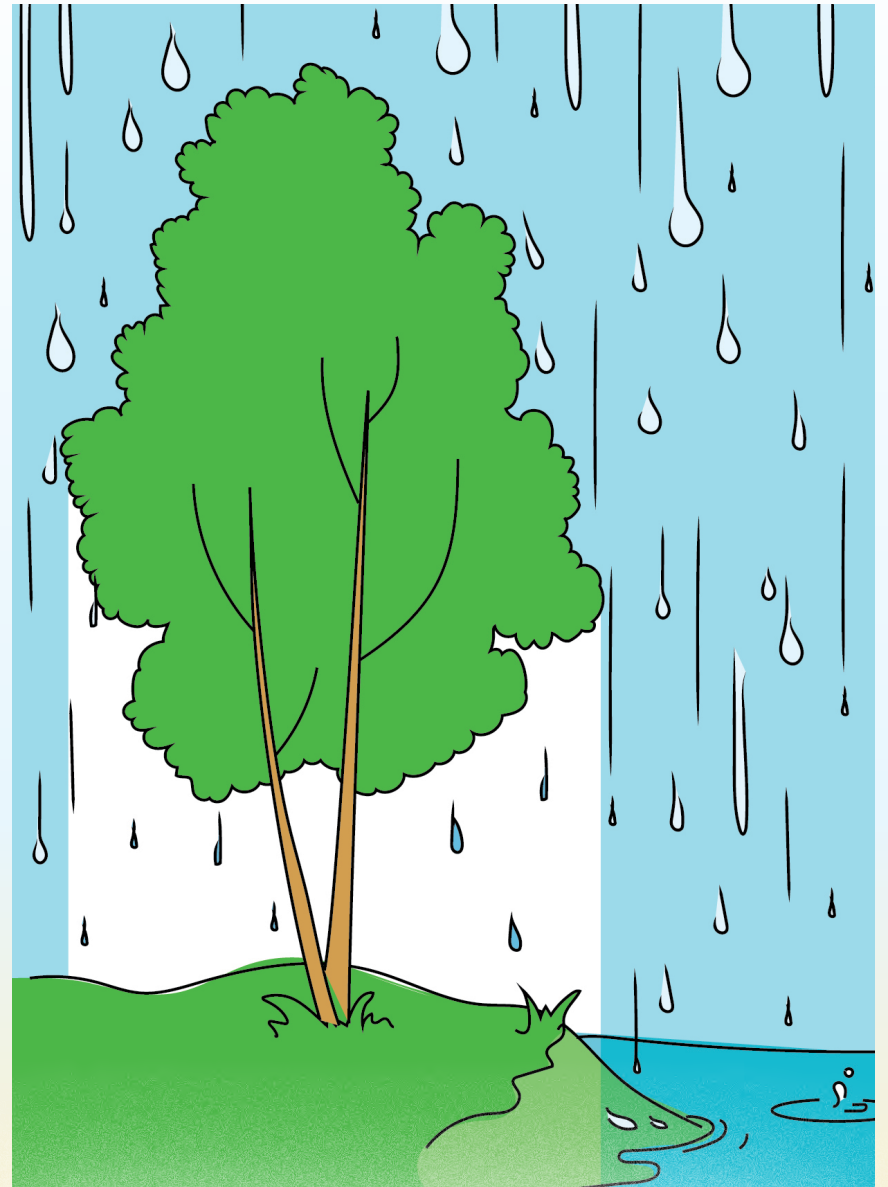
People can get food from forests. These blueberries are from Tongass National Forest in Alaska.



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?



Here are the new words we learned in this Reader! Woodsy Owl's® Words can also be called a glossary.

WOODSY OWL'S® WORDS

agency (ā jən sē): A part of a government that manages projects in a certain area.

benefit (be nə fit): A good or helpful result.

forests (fōr əsts): Areas that are mostly covered with trees and other plants.

minerals (min rəls): Solid materials that are natural. They are not made by plants or animals and usually come from the ground. An example of a mineral is silver or gold.

recreation (re krē ā shən): Something we do to have fun or relax.

urban (ər bən): Describes an area with many people, buildings, and roads.

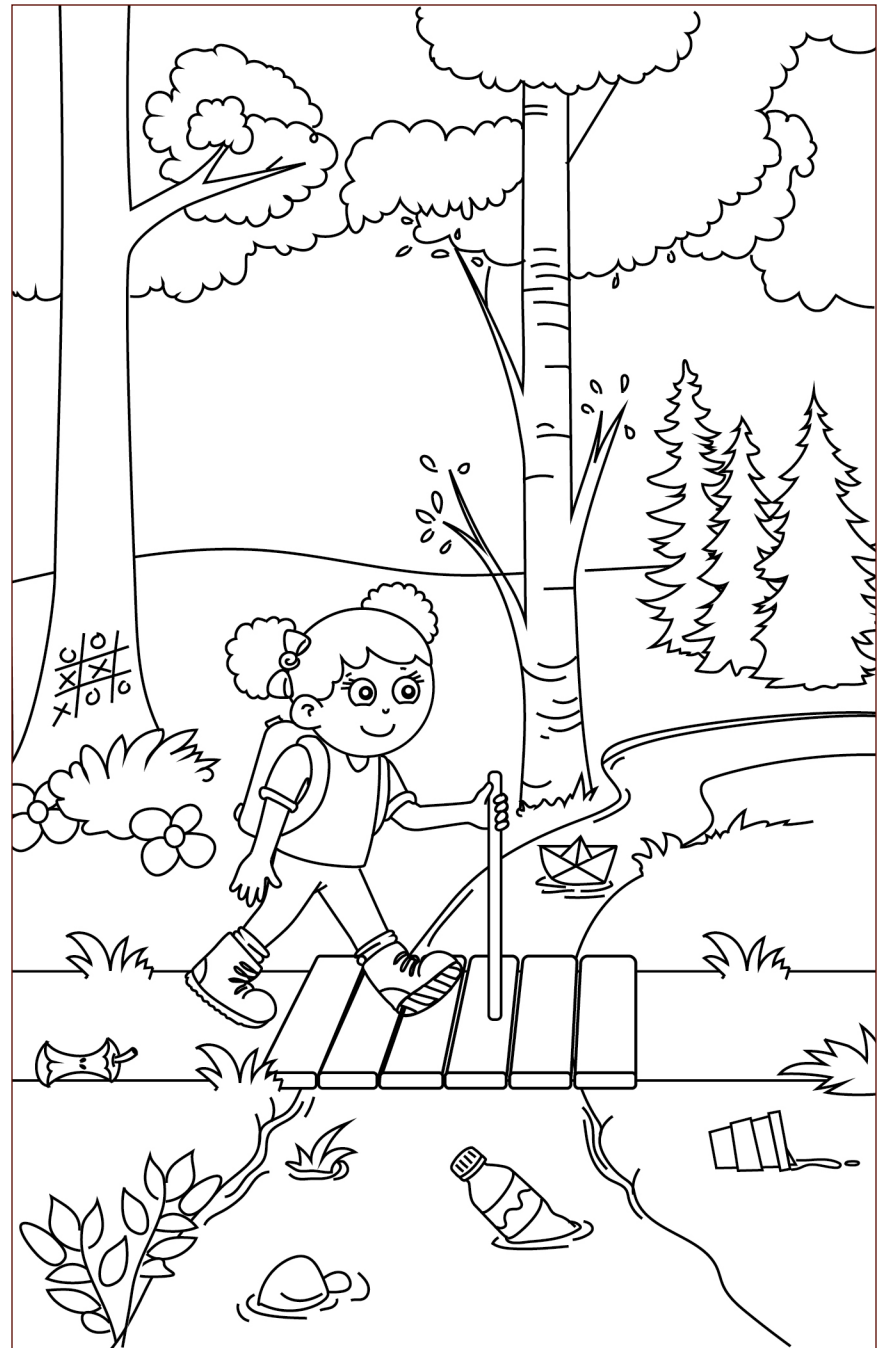
value (val yū): To think something is important or good.

TRY THIS!

Think about an area with trees that you have seen or visited. In the box below, make a list or draw some of your favorite things about that area. If you have been there before, would you like to visit that area again? Why or why not?



On this coloring page, circle all the things that Woodsy Owl® would want you to help with and then you can color it too! Remember Woodsy Owl's® favorite saying: "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!"



Number 13
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Background: This Reader helps students learn about forests and some of the benefits they provide. Some of the benefits include providing clean air and water, carbon storage, habitat for plants and animals, timber harvesting, erosion control, recreation opportunities, and aesthetics. To learn more about the benefits of forests, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/>.

Note: For more background information and lesson plans, visit <https://www.naturalinquirer.org> and choose the “For Educators” tab.

All photos are USDA Forest Service images unless otherwise noted.

Pages 1, 5 (playground), and 6 (Black Rock Mountain State Park): Jessica Nickelsen; pages 3, 5 (urban park), 6 (city park), 14 (mule deer), and 16: Preston Keres, USDA Forest Service; pages 2 and 20–21: Cecilio Ricardo, USDA Forest Service; page 4 (child on wooden play equipment): Nissa McKinney; page 4 (Family Forest Landowner sign): Korey Morgan, USDA Forest Service; page 8: Babs McDonald; page 14 (brown bear): Shane Balian, USDA Forest Service; page 14 (yellow-bellied marmot): C. McRae, USDA Forest Service; page 15: Mark Meyer, USDA Forest Service; page 17: Shutterstock; page 18: Alex Weinmann, USDA Forest Service; page 19: Gwen Baluss, USDA Forest Service; page 22: Charity Parks, USDA Forest Service.

Pages 26 and 27: illustrations by Stephanie Pfeiffer Rossow.

Production Staff

Jessica Nickelsen, FIND Outdoors
Bradi McDonald, FIND Outdoors
Nissa McKinney, FIND Outdoors
Barbara Keely, FIND Outdoors
Michelle Andrews, FIND Outdoors
Leslie Shaw, Leslie Shaw Design

Forest Service

Tom Schultz, Chief
David Lytle, Deputy Chief, Research and Development
Wendy Zirngibl, Staff Director, Knowledge Management and Communications
Iris Velez, Symbols Program Manager
Kim Winter, Forest Supervisor, Los Padres National Forest

FIND Outdoors

Chad Leatherwood, Chair
Carolyn Ashworth, President and CEO
Dallas Martin, Director of Education

Be a Possibility Possum

Scientists make things possible;
They ask and answer questions.
You can make things possible
If you follow these suggestions.

Observe your world and wonder;
Ask how, what, why, and who?
Ask and answer questions
To make things possible for you.

Wonder is a good thing;

It is very plain to see.

When I ask and answer questions,
I make things possible for me.



Woodsy Owl® has been inviting children of all ages to explore and care for the natural environment since 1971. Woodsy Owl®, in partnership with the *Natural Inquirer* Reader Series, helps introduce children to science and the natural world. In this Reader, children will learn about forests and some of the benefits of forests.



Woodsy Owl's® motto is "Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!" As children read, they can look for ways to lend a hand and care for forests.