

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS

INFORMATION SHEET

8 to 12-year olds

Here is a list of all the animals, plants and fungi represented on the flashcards. Use the information related to each living thing below to spark discussions with your learners about how much these living things depend on trees for their survival.



1. Bees: They live in hives which they build in hollow trees.



2. Ants: They can live in trees' hollow stems or roots. They also extract food from tiny insects that live on trees. Some leaf-cutter ants use tree leaves to build their homes and grow their own food.



3. Butterflies: They feed on the flowers of some trees. Trees also provide shelter and water for butterflies.



4. Beetles: They feed on all parts of the tree: roots, stems, leaves, seeds, nectar, fruits or even wood, which can unfortunately contribute to killing the tree.



5. Grasshoppers: They feed on trees and other plants. They can eat leaves, flowers and fruit.



6. Cicadas: Adults live on the crown, trunk and small twigs of trees. Females cut small slits in the tender twigs and small branches of their host plants where they lay eggs inside the slits.

- ▶▶▶▶ **7. Green Keel-bellied lizards:** They live in Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania. They live in trees where they hunt for insects and even small lizards.

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17. love birds: Love birds are native of Sub-Saharan Africa. They live in tree holes and mate for life.



18. Eurasian hoopoes: hoopoe chicks ward off predators by strategically aiming their droppings. They also use their bill and wings to fight off intruders, and make a threatening hissing sound.



19. Gorillas: Gorillas live in tropical forests. They mainly live on the ground but climb onto trees to pick fruit or play.



20. Kinkajous: Kinkajous live in the tropical forests of Central and South America, where they spend most of their time in the trees. They raid bees' nests and use their long, skinny tongues to slurp honey from a hive.



21. Genet cats: They climb trees to hunt birds and prefer to live in areas with dense vegetation, such as bushes, thickets, and evergreen oak forests.



22. Sloths: They spend most of their lives hanging upside down in trees, and only come down when they need to go to the toilet. They live in Central and South America.



23. Red pandas: Red pandas live in China, Nepal, and Bhutan. They spend most of their time in trees to avoid predators. They mostly eat leaves, stems and shoots of various bamboo species.



24. Bats: Bats are found throughout Africa. They live in forests and savannas where they roost together in colonies in tall trees. Bats play an important role in the environment. Many plants are dependent on bats for both pollination and seed dispersal.



25. Lichen: Lichen is not a plant or a single organism; it is the result of a partnership between a fungus and algae.



26. Lichen: There are about 20,000 known lichen species!

»»»» **27. Mushrooms:** This one is called turkey tail. Many mushroom species like trees because they help regulate temperature, light, humidity, CO₂, moisture and other factors that can help them grow. Trees also shed a lot of leaves, needles, branches, bark that mushrooms love to eat.

»»»» **28. Spiders:** Spiders are a key component of forest ecosystems, occupying a unique position in food webs. As predators, they are important in the regulation of invertebrate populations, which include pest species, and as prey they provide food for other invertebrates and birds.

»»»» **29. Orchids:** They attach to trees, high in the canopy of rainforests where they get more sunlight and are more easily visited by the moths which pollinate them. Also, because they are up high, the wind can more easily catch and spread their tiny seeds.

»»»» **30. Orchids:** There are currently 28,000 known species of orchids!

»»»» **31. Moss:** Moss are an ancient plant that dates back 450 million years, and have survived and thrived through a range of drastic climate changes. Unlike most other plants, mosses don't have roots. Moss provides shelter for insects to live, lay their eggs and hunt for food.

»»»» **32. Ivy:** Ivy doesn't suffocate or strangle a tree, but simply uses it to climb up in order to reach the light. Because it is evergreen, ivy provides year-round shelter to all sorts of animals.

»»»» **33. Mistletoe:** Mistletoe is a parasite which attaches to a tree via suckers roots and absorbs some water and nutrients from its host plant. Mistletoe is an important food source for many animal species.

»»»» **34. Staghorn ferns:** They grow harmlessly on trees in South East Asia and Africa. Their name is due to the shape of their leaves, which reminds us of antelope's antlers.