



### The KSE Promise

The Earth is my home.  
 I promise to keep it healthy and beautiful.  
 I will love the land, the air, the water and all living creatures.  
 I will be a defender of my planet.  
 United with friends,  
 I will save the Earth.

## Preparation for Forest Visit

1. Begin by reciting The Kids for Saving Earth Promise located above.
2. Create a Kids for Saving Earth forest bulletin board by having each child draw a tree and cut it out. On each of their trees have them write I will plant a tree. Have them sign their name.
3. Next have each student prepare a KSE forest notebook. It should contain lined paper and drawing paper and should be stiff enough to carry to the woods and use for notes and drawings.
4. Print out page two and make copies. Review the forest words and issues with your students.
5. Schedule a trip to the nearest forest or gathering of trees. Hopefully you can walk there, but if you need funding have kids write letters asking for donations from local businesses or check out [funding ideas at Kids for Saving Earth.](#)

## Forest Activities

Before you enter the forest, remind kids to not damage it.

### Lunch and Learn

Pack a bag lunch and enjoy the sights and sounds of a forest. Ask for some silent time and ask children to listen, observe, and smell the forest. Ask them to share what they have discovered. Save lunch bags for seed collection.

### The Camouflage Game

This game teaches children how to become more observant and helps them understand how some animals are camouflaged in the forest. Hide items of trash in the forest (20-30 pieces). Some of your trash choices should be items that are easily camouflaged, like coat hangers, wire, green paper etc. Be sure to remember how many pieces were hidden and where, so that no trash is left in the forest. Divide students into groups and provide each group with a large bag. Which group can find the most trash? Remind the kids not to trample forest plants. While they are looking for trash they will see many more wonders of nature.

## The Forest Floor

Many animals live on the forest floor. These animals cannot live on an asphalt parking lot. They like the litter and humus that is found on the forest floor.

1. Look for examples of humus and litter. Study these materials and try to determine what they are made of.
2. How many animals can you find on the forest floor? Look for box elder bugs, grasshoppers, spiders, pill bugs, earth worms, ants, millipedes, snails and slugs. Be sure to list everything you find in the forest notebooks. Which ones are considered insects? Why are these animals important to the food chain?
3. What forest floor foods can you find? Look for leaves, mushrooms, seeds, fungi.
4. Check out seeds on the floor. Have they started to take root? How have they traveled to the floor? Are they sticky or are they blown by the wind? Milkweed, dandelion and cattail seeds have feather-like wings that allow them to float and blow through the air. How many different seeds can you find?



## Branching Out

Before you leave the forest have kids sit down and write two-word poems about what they see, hear, smell and feel in the forest. For example: Blue Sky, Dark Branches, Blowing Seeds. Two-word poems help to condense thoughts and feelings. Back in your classroom ask the students to draw a picture to go with their poem. After reading them aloud, post their poems and drawings on your "Let the Forest Be With You" bulletin board in your room or hall.



# Important Forest Issues, Words and Questions



copy cat page



**Endangered species**...an animal or plant in danger of becoming extinct.

**Extinct** ...a kind of animal or plant that no longer exists.

**Insect**...insects have skeletons on the outside, 3 body sections and 6 legs.

**Food chain**... levels to show what living things eat to get energy. Plants are at the bottom of all food chains and people are at the top of many food chains.

**Forest**...an area of land covered with trees and undergrowth, providing a habitat for wildlife.

**Humus**...the top layer of soil formed by decomposing leaves, wood, etc. on the forest floor.

**Litter**...layers of leaves, twigs, branches and dead plants on a forest floor.

**Pollination**... male pollen joins with the female ovule to form the beginning of a new seed.

**Predator**... an animal or plant that kills and eats other living things.

**Prey**... an animal that is eaten by a predator.

**Seed**...tiny homes for baby plants before they begin to grow in soil.

**Separation layer**.. a corky layer of cells that develop at the base of each leaf as trees begin to prepare for cold weather.

**Species**... a group of animals or plants that are alike in certain ways.

**Tree**... plant that has a wood main stem or trunk, develops branches and often grows tall.

**Loss of habitat**...When this happens, animals and plants no longer have a safe place to grow and live because their home is gone.

**Erosion of the land**...If there are no trees or plant roots to hold soil in place or limbs to help prevent wind from blowing soil away, wind and water will wear away the land.

**Global warming**... the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere (air) warming up. Increases of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere from such things as the burning of oil or coal products can cause global warming. Forests are important cooling devices for our planet and return oxygen into the air.

**Flooding**... When waterways receive too much water, they begin to overflow. This is often caused by turning forests into hard surfaces like roads and parking lots more. Where this happens, rain or snow can't soak into the land. Instead, it "runs off" into waterways.

## Questions to Ask Myself

A forest is more than trees. What other plants and animals did I find in the forest?

What do I like best about the forest?

Why do we need forests?

What will I do to help protect the forest?

