

Create a Tree Superhero!



Introduction

Tropical rainforests have been developing and growing on our planet for millions of years. They are found in the warm tropical zone around the equator and are home to a wide variety of amazing animals and insects as well as lots of people living in forest dwelling communities.

We call them 'rain' forests because of the high amount of rainfall they get per year (roughly between 3 and 10 times the amount of rain per year that falls in our capital city Cardiff!). The high rainfall and hot climate means that that plants and trees can grow all year round. This makes tropical rainforests an ideal habitat for a wide variety of insects and animals to live and thrive.





Why rainforests are important

Tropical rainforests are often called the 'lungs of the earth' for their role in producing oxygen, upon which all animals depend for survival. Rainforests are also important because they help to store something called carbon. To do this they absorb carbon dioxide gas from our atmosphere through their leaves.

Too much carbon dioxide gas in our atmosphere is bad for our world as it traps the sun's heat energy. This heats up our atmosphere and makes our whole planet warmer. This is known as **global warming**.

When our world warms up it creates changes to our seasons and global weather patterns. This causes problems around the globe such as melting ice caps, rising sea levels, flooding and droughts. This is known as **climate change**.

Lots of carbon dioxide is released into the atmosphere every day because humanity relies on fossil fuels (oil, gas and coal) to create the fuel for cars, to heat our homes and to create electricity. Unfortunately, this activity is making global warming and climate change a reality.

However- **don't panic!** because our planet has something that works tirelessly to take carbon out of our atmosphere to slow this global warming process - **OUR TREES!**

Yes- trees! When trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere they help us to slow down global warming- **so trees are helping to save our planet as well as giving us lovely oxygen to breathe!**

Trees around the world and in particular tropical rainforests are doing an amazing job to take carbon out of our atmosphere, but we also need to remember to play our part too by striving to use less fossil fuels in our day to day lives (make fewer car journeys, switch off lights when you leave a room etc).

Create a Tree Superhero!



We here at Size of Wales think of trees as superheroes - or perhaps 'super-tree-roes! (groan). They are helping to save our planet from global warming as well as giving us lovely fresh oxygen to breathe. **But what would a tree superhero look like?**

This is where you come into it. We'd like children across Wales to create their own Tree Superheroes.

It's easy and takes just three simple steps!

1. On a sheet of paper draw and colour your superhero tree picture.
Does your superhero tree wear a cape? Perhaps a mask? Can it fly? This is all up to you- **get creative!!!**
2. Think of a name for your tree superhero and write and colour this above your superhero picture.
3. Lots of people who don't know how special trees are might wonder why trees are superheroes- **so let's tell them!**

Write some amazing tree facts around your picture to make people understand how amazing trees are. Here are some suggestions to help start you off....

- What gas do trees absorb from our atmosphere?
- What gas do trees release?
- Why are trees important to all humans and animals?
- What do trees store?
- What happens if there's too much carbon dioxide in our atmosphere

Some examples

Here are two examples of different Tree Superheroes in action.

This one has an amazing cape and birds and birds living in its trunk!



The Tree Superhero below is flying in to help save our planet!



Why not share your Tree Superhero?

When you've finished your poster ask your parents or your school to share them on **Twitter**, **Facebook** or **Instagram** using the hashtag **#TreeSuperheroes** – and remember to tag **@sizeofwales** so that we can share your work and inspire even more Tree Super Heroes!

Oh, and don't forget to place them in your front window when they're finished so that you can show the world what an amazing job that our trees do for our planet... So- what are you waiting for???

Get going and get creative!