



Why are trees important?

Unit aims:

To find out, talk and write about green spaces in the past and in the present.

Lesson 1 Vocabulary

- 1 Watch. What question do the Squirrels ask?
- 2 Match the words to pictures 1-10. Listen to check. Say.
- 3 Listen to Libby. What is she looking at? How does she feel?
- 4 Listen to the riddles. Guess the words.
- 5 Close your book. Play a memory game.

There's a stream in the country.

True.

There aren't any motorways in the city.

False.

airport
chimney
factory
farm
field
lake
motorway
rock
stream
traffic jam



Look at the ten new words. How many are similar in your language?

Do towns have more green spaces now than in the past?

How can we create more green spaces?

How much forest is there in the world?

Why are trees disappearing?

Why are trees important?



1 Read and listen. What's the email about?



@Squirrels: Hi, Lions. This is Mia. We think this is a really interesting topic. I asked my grandpa if his town has more green spaces now than in the past. This is his answer:

Dear Mia,

Thank you for your email. The *Curious Kids Investigate* programme sounds very exciting!

In the past, the park in my town was smaller. There wasn't a lake and there weren't any sports fields. Now there's a lake with ducks and there are sports fields where you can play football and rugby.

Before, there were some factories in the town centre. There were big traffic jams too, but there aren't a lot of cars now. There are more bikes, scooters and buses. It's better now because the air is cleaner and the streets are quieter.

See you soon,

Grandpa

2 How was the town different in the past? Read and write.

1 There **was** / **wasn't** a lake in the park.

2 There **were** / **weren't** a lot of cars in the town centre.

Remember!

Use **any** in negative sentences and questions

3 Read, listen and follow. Say.

Curious about grammar! *There was / There were*

There was	a factory.	There wasn't	an airport.
There were	some fields.	There weren't	any motorways.

Was there	a factory?	Yes, there was.	No, there wasn't.
Were there	any fields?	Yes, there were.	No, there weren't.

4 Watch or listen. Say the rap.

Was there a factory?
Were there any trees?
Were there any fields near your street?

There wasn't a factory.
There were some trees.
There weren't any fields near my street.

5 Ask and answer about your street in the past.

Was there a factory near your street?

No, there wasn't.

Were there any trees?

Yes, there were.



Curiosity Corner

Can trees communicate? Investigate.

@Lions: Here's a true story about an amazing woman in Kenya. Her story inspires us to protect the environment. Tell us what you think.



- 1 Think. How do people protect the environment?
- 2 Watch or read and listen. How does Wangari's village change during the story?

The small seeds

- 1 Wangari lives in a small village below Mount Kenya. She loves helping her mother to collect firewood from the forest near her house.

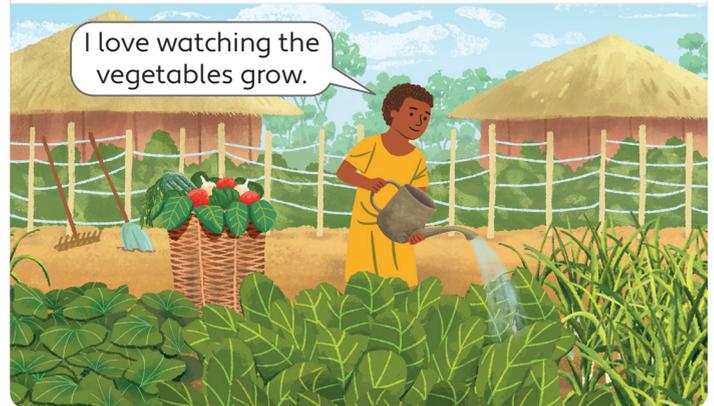
Look at the birds in the trees, Mama.



The forest is home to lots of animals, Wangari.

- 2 Wangari also enjoys working in her family's garden. The soil is good and many vegetables grow there.

I love watching the vegetables grow.



- 3 Wangari is very clever and when she is 20, she wins a prize to study biology in the United States of America.

Take care, Wangari.



Don't worry about me, Mama.

- 4 Years later, Wangari returns to her village in Kenya. It looks very different now. People are cutting down trees because they want more land to build houses.

Now our plants don't grow very well.



And our children are hungry.

- 5 Wangari knows that planting trees helps the land, but big trees are expensive. She has an idea and tells her friends.

We can collect seeds from trees and plant them in cans.

But the seeds are so small!



- 6 When the plants are 30 cm high, the women plant the trees in the ground. They plant them in their gardens and around their homes.

It looks like a green belt.



7 Soon more women join Wangari and her friends. These women receive a little money for every plant they grow. This makes them feel happy.



8 As time passes, the new trees grow into a forest. There is water in the stream again and the soil is good. More women hear about Wangari's project and they visit the village to find out more.



9 Thanks to Wangari's Green Belt Movement, there are now more than 40 million new trees in Kenya and other African countries.



10 After many years Wangari receives the Nobel Peace Prize. Her incredible work teaches people to love and protect the environment. She's an inspiration!



We can all protect the environment.

3 Read and answer. Say or write.

- 1 Where does Wangari live when she's a girl?
- 2 What does she study in the USA?
- 3 Why do people cut down trees near her village?

- 4 What does Wangari collect from the trees?
- 5 Why do some women visit the village?
- 6 Why is Wangari an inspiration?

4 Read. Then listen to Alfie's podcast. What does he think of the story?

- 1 Do you like the story? Why? / Why not?
- 2 What's your favourite part of the story? Why?
- 3 Is life in the village better now? Why? / Why not?
- 4 Can one person make a difference to the environment? How?

5 What do you think of the story? Ask and answer.

6 Think and reflect. Discuss.

- 1 What does Wangari do to protect the environment?
- 2 Why is it important to keep the Earth healthy?
- 3 What can you do to help protect the environment?



Creativity Corner

Imagine you interview Wangari. What questions would you ask?

I'm interested in why trees are important. Here's my video for *Curious Kids Investigate*.



1 Watch. Which parts of the tree does Milo talk about? Why are they important for animals?



1 roots



2 trunk



3 soil



4 clean air



5 shelter



6 shade

2 Find out more Read and listen. How do trees make us feel?

TERRIFIC TREES

Trees are important for people and the environment. Here are four reasons why.



Many products come from trees. We use wood from tree trunks to build houses and furniture and to make paper. We eat fruits and nuts from some trees. Scientists also use the roots, flowers and seeds of trees to create medicines. But be careful, some parts of a tree can make you ill. Do you know that the leaves and seeds of apple trees are poisonous?



Trees clean our air. Cars and factories produce a gas called carbon dioxide which causes pollution in the air. The leaves on trees take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen into the air. Trees store the carbon in their leaves, trunks and branches, as well as in the roots in the soil.



Trees keep our streets and houses cool. Their leaves give us shade when it's sunny. When water in the leaves evaporates, it cools the air around the tree. Do you know that in summer, a street with trees can be more than 10°C cooler than a street without trees? That's amazing!



Trees make us happier and healthier. We exercise and play more when we live in a place with trees. And we feel more relaxed and positive. Scientists also say that students study better when they are near to trees.

Reading tip!

Use the pictures to find the information faster.

3 Read again and answer.

- Which material comes from trees?
- Why can't you eat the leaves on an apple tree?
- What do trees take from the air?
- Which part of the tree cleans the air?
- When do trees give us shade?
- How do trees help students?

4 Why are the trees in your neighbourhood important? Say or write.

Lots of animals live in the trees like birds and squirrels.

The trees keep me cool on hot days.

Curiosity Corner

How long can trees live? Investigate.



1  Read Mia's questions and predict the answers.

2  Listen and find out.



① What is a community garden?
 ② Why do people create community gardens?
 Because there aren't many ...
 ③ What do you grow here?
 ④ What was here before the garden?
 There was a ...

Mia wants to learn about community gardens in the city. She's talking to one of the community gardeners.



3  Read, listen and follow. Say.

Curious about grammar? countable and uncountable nouns

Uncountable	There was	some / lots of rubbish.	There wasn't	any grass.
Countable	There were	some / lots of old cars.	There weren't	any trees.

Remember!

Use numbers with **countable nouns**.
 Use **some** with **uncountable nouns**.
two flowers
some soil

4  **Sounds good!** Listen, read and repeat. Say the sentences quickly.

1 pollution
 rubbish and pollution
 some rubbish and pollution
There was some rubbish and pollution.

2 grass
 water or grass
 any water or grass
There wasn't any water or grass.

5  Find six differences. Use the communication cards in the Activity Book.

 Pupil A AB page 105

There were two bikes in my car park.

There was some shade in my car park.

 Pupil B AB page 106

There weren't any bikes in my car park. That's one difference!

There was some shade in my car park, too.



 Look at the grammar table. What's similar or different in your language?

- 1 What types of green spaces are there in your country?
- 2 Listen and read. How do the children create more green spaces in Thailand and the USA?



@Lions: Hi, everyone! We want to help to make the world greener. How do children help create green spaces where you live? Can you send us some ideas?





@Elephants: In Thailand, there are plants that grow in seawater. They're called mangroves and they're really important for keeping the sea clean. Every year, our class goes to the coast and plants small mangrove trees in the sea. Look!







@Lions: That looks fun!





@Elephants: Yes, it is. The trees grow fast and they sometimes become a new mangrove forest. Lots of small marine animals live there.





@Eagles: Lots of schools in the USA have got vegetable gardens. This year, our school has got a vegetable garden, too. It's in the corner of our playground. Before, there was just some grass there. We're very proud because now we grow lots of flowers and vegetables. Look!







@Lions: Your vegetable garden is awesome, Eagles. Do you like gardening?





@Eagles: Yes, we do. It makes us relaxed. We love watching the bees work. Bees are very important for green spaces. They carry pollen from plant to plant, so more plants grow.



3 Read again and answer.

- 1 Where do mangroves grow?
- 2 How do the mangrove trees help the environment?
- 3 Where is the Eagles' garden?
- 4 What do the Eagles grow?
- 5 Which animal helps to create more green spaces?
- 6 Do you think it's a good idea for children to work in a vegetable garden at school? Why / Why not?

Curiosity Corner

Why do bees do a special dance? Investigate.



4 Compare cultures Think about your country. Ask and answer.

What green spaces do you visit in your area?

How can you create more green space at your school?

Do schools have vegetable gardens in your country?

1 Watch. What are Libby and Mia doing?

2 Listen, read and say.



Next, make a hole in the soil. Then, sprinkle the seeds in the hole. Next, cover the seeds with soil. Finally, water the seeds.

Useful expressions:
Ordering information
First, ...
Then, ... / Next, ...
Finally, ...

3 **Chit-chat** Ask for and give instructions. Act out.

make a sandwich get ready for school paint a picture get ready for bed

How do you make a sandwich?

First, put the bread on a plate.

OK. What next?

4 Read the information on the seed packet. Would you like to grow this imaginary plant? Why? / Why not?

Bee Plant

This plant grows up to two metres tall and 30 cm wide. It's got long, green leaves and yellow and black flowers.

picture

INSTRUCTIONS

- First, find a sunny place to plant the seeds.
- Next, make a big hole in the ground.
- Then, put one seed in the hole and cover it with soil.
- Finally, water the seed with five litres of water. Water the plant every day.

how to plant it

! IMPORTANT! !
 This plant is poisonous.

Writing tip!
 Use a comma after the ordering words.

5 Read again and answer.

- 1 What does this plant look like? 2 Where do you plant the seeds? 3 How often do you water the plant?

→ **AB pages 32-33** Plan and write your seed packet for an imaginary plant.

Give your family instructions for making lunch.

@Lions: Thanks for all the information about trees and nature everyone! There were some great ideas about how to protect the environment, too. Here are some of our favourite quizzes and puzzles. Try them!



1 Read and write or say.

1 Order the letters. Are the words countable (C) or uncountable (U)?

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| 1 orck | 4 amrest |
| 2 canle ria | 5 adshe |
| 3 eldif | 6 rafm |

2 Talk about your town in the past.

- There ... a factory.
- There ... grass.
- There ... rubbish.
- There ... traffic jams.

There wasn't a factory in my town.

3 Test your memory. Look for 15 seconds and tell your friend.

There was lots of pollution.

Yes!

There wasn't any grass.

No! There was some grass



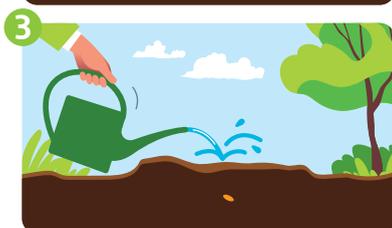
4 Continue the instructions. Take turns.



First, make a hole in the soil.



Then ...



5 Do the trees quiz.

- Owls shelter in the ... of a tree.
a roots b trunk c leaves
- Leaves give us ...
a paper. b pollution. c shade.
- Leaves take in ...
a carbon dioxide. b oxygen. c clean air.
- We feel ... when we live in a place with trees.
a better b the same c worse

6 Which things aren't in a community garden?

- | | | |
|----------|---------|-------------|
| motorway | rubbish | chimney |
| flowers | insects | plants |
| grass | factory | birds |
| trees | soil | traffic jam |

➔ AB page 34 Do the language review and self-assessment.

A community garden

 Watch Alfie and Libby present their community garden. Then answer the questions.



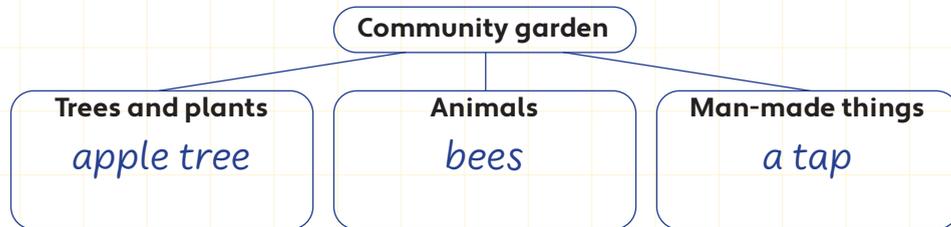
- 1 What's the name of their community garden?
- 2 Which tree is in their garden?
- 3 What animals live in their garden?
- 4 What man-made things are in their garden?

Think and prepare

Brainstorm ideas for a community garden as a class. Use a diagram.

 Think! Where do these words go?

birds bug hotel flowers pond



Plan

Work with a friend. Choose things for your garden. Think about why you want them.

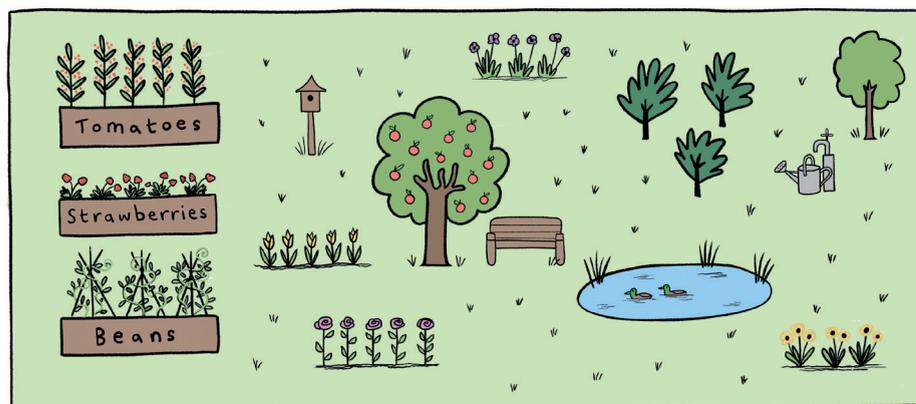
Why is it a good idea to have a birdhouse?

an apple tree → It gives fruit and shade.
 bench → People can sit and relax.
 birdhouse →

Be creative

Design your garden with your friend. Label your drawing.

What can you see in Alfie and Libby's plan?



Share

Practise presenting your community garden with your friend.

 Watch the video again. Do Alfie and Libby speak loudly and clearly?
 Now, present your community garden to the class.

Creative Thinking

How can you protect the plants in your community garden?