

Spider's web

Group size:

8 pupils per group

Resources:

- A ball of wool
- Photocopy of the role cards on the following page, preferably on card. Use paperclips to pin them to pupil's jumpers so that everyone can see.

Activity:

- Pupils are each allocated a rainforest species or an important physical factor
- Pupils stand in a circle and in turn, read out information about their role
- Other pupils listen carefully
- Introduce a large ball of string to one pupil. They have to identify another person that they link to e.g. "I am a forest elephant and I use the ebony tree as a scratching post"
- That pupil holds firmly to the end of the string and passes the whole ball to the person that they have linked to
- The person now holding the ball of string has to identify and explain a different link. They then hold on to their section of the string and throw the ball to the new link person
- The process continues until a web is formed. (It works best if everyone gets the ball of wool more than once)
- Ask everyone to keep still and one pupil to wiggle their finger, to show how all parts are interconnected

Tip:

You can ask pupils what would happen if a connection was broken.

I am the rain

I provide water for the plants and animals. They need me to live, but I can also wash the goodness out of the soil which makes it hard for some trees to grow. I make the air very humid.

I am a palm oil plant

I am native to West Africa. Valuable palm oil can be extracted from my fruit's seeds and pulp. Forest are often chopped down so that my plant can grow on a big scale which is then used in chocolate, toiletries, packaging etc.

I am a harpy Eagle

I am one of the largest eagles in the world. I live in the rainforest but I am nearly extinct, because my habitat is being destroyed due to unsustainable logging.

I am a logger

I work for a multinational corporation. I chop down trees, but I make the things people need such as furniture and paper.

I am a forest elephant

I eat the leaves and bark from many different trees and bushes. I enjoy fruit, especially the greenish-yellow fruit of the makore tree. I am very important in spreading tree seeds.

I am native forest tribal leader

I live in the rainforest in a village. The trees are being chopped so that people can get cash crops down such palm oil plants and cash from agriculture. This is making it difficult for us to live from the resources of the forest.

I am an ebony tree

My timber is valuable. My black bark has lengthwise cracks that elephants use as a scratching post. This is why I am also called 'elephant comb' by the local people. I give out oxygen which is vital all living things. I am part of what is sometimes described as 'The lungs of the earth'.

I am a school child in Wales

I am 10 years old, I live in Wales with my mum, dad and brother. Many of the things we use come from the rainforest; furniture, palm oil in food, medicines and even parts in mobile phones. I want to have a happy and healthy future.