

level



Trees are cool

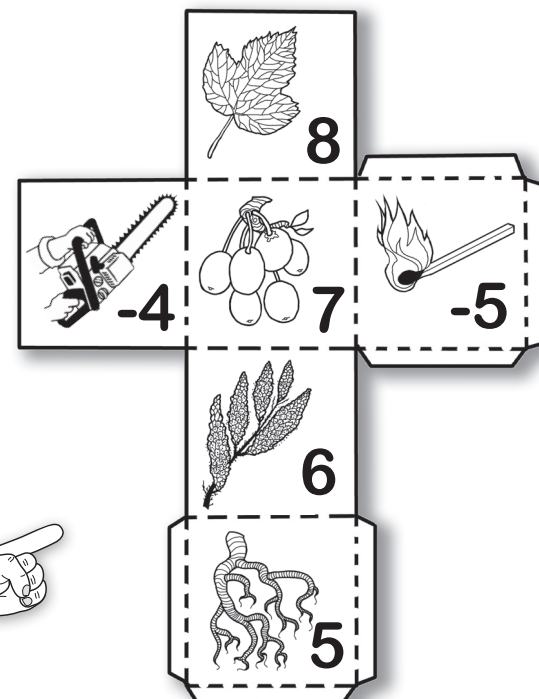
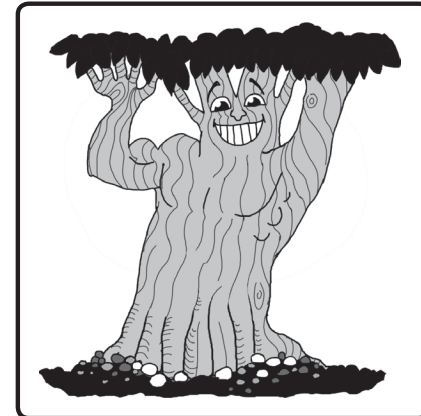


Aim

Children become more aware of the functions and importance of trees to the world.

Action

- Develop a lesson (or a number of lessons) to illustrate the following aspects of trees:
 - Leaves give off oxygen, the 'good air' that all animals (including humans) need to live.
 - Leaves give shelter to birds and provide a great hiding place and material for nesting.
 - Leaves are food and shelter for insects, spiders and all sorts of creepy crawlies.
 - Leaves create litter, which makes excellent compost and fertiliser, making the soil richer in nutrients.
 - The bark is home to many insects and other crawlies, which in turn are the food of many creatures.
 - The trunk is a good base for lichens, mosses, fungi and even small flowering plants, to grow on.
 - The fruit is excellent food for many animals (and people).
 - Trees grow flowers, which produce nectar, a sugary liquid that is the food of many insects like butterflies, moths, bees, and wasps; in some countries even bats, birds, lizards and monkeys drink nectar from trees.
 - Tree foliage forms a canopy that creates a shady and often damp environment, suitable for plants and creatures that don't like too much light.
 - Roots hold the soil in place, preventing land slides, mud slides, soil erosion and desertification.
 - Many burrowing animals live among roots, e.g. foxes and badgers.
 - (For older children) RAINFORESTS: Where trees grow in huge quantities, even the climate is affected, e.g. temperature, humidity, cloud cover. This is because of all that water coming out of the leaves.
- Together with the children, make your own classroom display to illustrate the above. It can take the form of a giant tree, with text and pictures placed on giant 'leaves' hanging from the tree.
- Play this simple game. Make a large cardboard cube, copy the pictures overleaf (enlarge if necessary) and stick them on its faces as shown in the diagram left, to make a dice. Divide the class into groups and give each group a tree-ish name, with corresponding scores on the board. Each group takes a go at the dice and wins points according to the score it gets. The dice has plus scores and minus scores according to what's in the picture. This is a fun way of reinforcing the main points of the lesson.
- Send pictures of (1) the classroom display and (2) the game in progress, for verification.



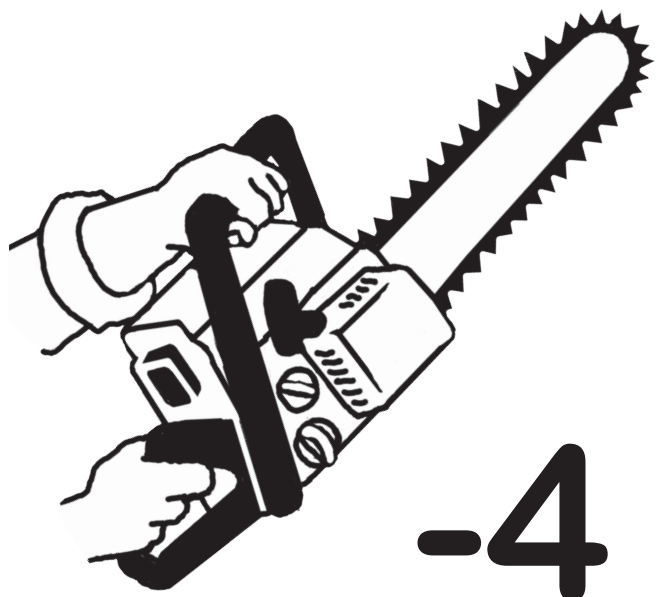
Points

100 points

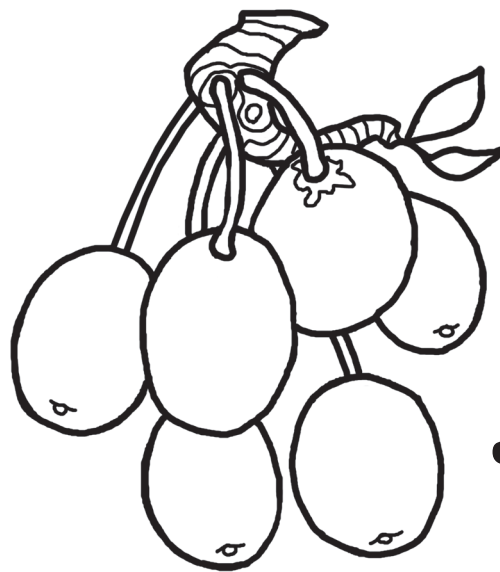
In Malta fire is a bigger threat to trees than deforestation. This is why the FIRE symbol carries more negative points than CHAINSAW.



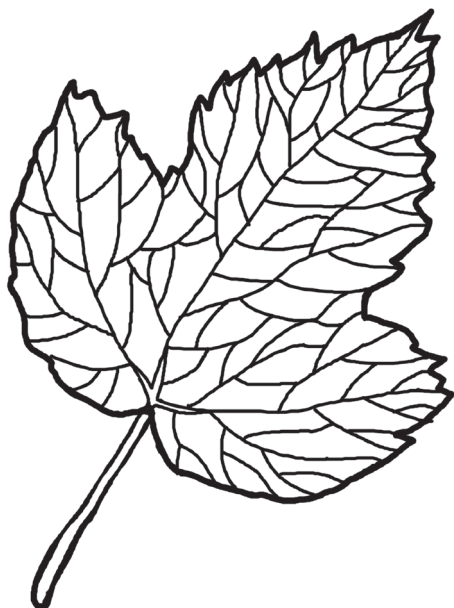
Dicey Pictures



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