

SEEDS TO TREES

5-14 NATIONAL GUIDELINES –

English Language

TEACHERS SHEET

DEAR TREE

Session aims:

To learn the main rules and convention for letter writing; to improve handwriting skills; to enjoy writing for different purposes and to develop speaking and listening skills

Activity:

This activity should be introduced, so that the pupils can be encouraged to think about what they would like to say to the trees they have planted, during the seed planting activity.

A letter template arranged in five paragraphs (as supplied) can be handed out as a guideline. Pupils can handwrite their letter (or fill in the template), completing the paragraphs using their own ideas.

Trees live for a long time, and the changes that are likely to happen during their lifetime provide an interesting topic for class discussions and individual consideration.

Preparation required

- Ideally the planting of tree seeds should be carried out beforehand. Also, it helps if pupils have had firsthand experience of trees of mixed ages, some very old.
- A discussion about what may change over a tree's lifetime would be useful. The ways in which the pupils, the local area, and the overall environment may change can all be considered.

5-14 National Guidelines – English Language links

Listening and talking – exchanging information and sharing experiences and feelings.

Reading and Writing – researching information; using letter writing as a context for learning handwriting and presentation and personal/functional writing skills.

Extension activities:

- Pupils can be encouraged to look at 'A tree's memory' – an interactive online resource found at www.wildaboutwoods.org.uk/primary/resources. In this activity, pupils consider changes over time through the 'eyes' of three trees of different ages, growing in different localities.
- The letters can be copied and put in an envelope addressed to the pupil and stored in their personal file – 4-5 years later they might be 'delivered' back to the pupils, before they leave school!

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PUPIL ACTIVITY SHEET
DEAR TREE

(address)

(date)

Dear Tree,

I planted you today (explain how this made you feel)

You are going to grow into a large _____ (which species) tree.

In five years time (explain what you think your tree will look like and what do you think you will be doing?)



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PUPIL ACTIVITY SHEET

DEAR TREE

In ten years time (explain what you think your tree will look like and what do you think you will be doing?)

In fifty years time (explain what you think your tree will look like and what do you think you will be doing?)

I hope (explain what you hope will happen to your tree and yourself in the future)

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DEAR TREE

To look after my tree and myself in the next few years, I will (explain some of the things you can do to keep your tree and yourself healthy)

This is how I think my tree will look in 50 years time:

I am looking forward to watching you grow up.

Yours truly

(name)