

# The Ancient Tree Hunt

## KS3 English

### Oracy/Reading/Writing/Media: INVESTIGATING THE ANCIENT TREE HUNT

#### ACTIVITY 4: TEACHERS SHEET

##### Session aims:

For students to read journalistic, multimodal texts; to analyse, explain and describe information clearly and to write for contexts beyond the classroom by exploring and reporting on the aims of the Ancient Tree Hunt.

##### Starter

Students are given five minutes to explore [www.british-trees.com](http://www.british-trees.com) and find the answers to questions on student sheet 1.

##### Main/development

Teacher describes the project: for students to write or present a media report about the Ancient Tree Hunt, to be published either on the school website, school newspaper/magazine or local newspaper – or for display within the school.

Students are given student sheet 2, comprising a number of questions they can use to 'interrogate' the main website and related websites in order to collect and analyse relevant facts about the Ancient Tree Hunt.

Differentiation should be practiced and support given where necessary, in instructing students how to collect and record information and deciding the length and form of their reports. The report could be written as a magazine or newspaper feature, oral and taped as for a radio show, or videoed as if for TV.

##### Extension

Students are also given student sheet 3: a questionnaire they should use to conduct a *Vox Pop*: collecting opinion from family and friends which can be included within their report.

##### Curriculum links:

###### NC English Programme of study, 2008:

###### Oracy

Skills: 3, 4

Range: 1, 3, 6

###### Reading

Skills: 3, 6b

Range: 2, 3

###### Writing

Skills: 1, 5, 8, 9

Range: 1, 2, 3, 4

##### Other Links:

Developing Communication Skills

Developing Thinking Skills

ESD&GC

PSE

##### Equipment needed:

Access to the internet, specifically to the websites supporting and surrounding the Ancient Tree Hunt at [www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk](http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk)

The use of resources to write the report, varying according to availability, e.g. Microsoft Word, a DTP programme, tape recorder or video facilities

**Student sheet 1:** sample questions/prompts

**Student sheet 2:** questionnaire

**Student sheet 3:** Vox Pop questionnaire

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#### ACTIVITY 4: STUDENTS SHEET I

Find the answers to these questions on the website [www.british-trees.com](http://www.british-trees.com)

1. What does a strawberry tree look like?

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2. What is the usual name for a trembling poplar?

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3. What are crab apples good for?

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4. What kind of wood are hockey sticks and cricket stumps made of?

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5. What makes a walnut such good food and such bad poison?

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6. Why are hazel catkins so distinctive?

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7. How long can an oak tree live?

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8. How many species of willow are there in the British Isles?

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9. What other name is given to beech nuts?

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10. Which alcoholic drink (spirit) is flavoured by juniper berries?

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### Reading/Writing/Media:

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#### ACTIVITY 4: STUDENTS SHEET 2

#### Questions and prompts to compile a report on The Ancient Tree Hunt

1. Where is your report to be published and who do you think may read your report? Think about the style of your writing and illustrations, according to its potential audience
2. Find out the key facts about The Ancient Tree Hunt – draft a sentence or short paragraph on each of these questions/prompts:
  - a) what are its aims and purpose?
  - b) which organisations are behind The Ancient Tree Hunt?
  - c) how are the organisations funded?
  - d) how can people get involved with The Ancient Tree Hunt?
  - e) how long has the project been going on?
  - f) what kind of people get involved?
  - g) how do you think people benefit from getting involved? (What is in it for them?)
  - h) give an example of a 'latest news story' from The Ancient Tree Hunt website.
3. If you have interviewed one or more family members or friends, using Student sheet 3, sum up their responses and add this paragraph to your notes.
4. Put all your information together and decide how much you need for your report to make it interesting for your potential readers.
5. Decide if you need an illustration (or more than one), what kind of picture might be effective and where it might come from. Ask your teacher for advice if necessary.
6. Polish your final report by reading it through carefully, making changes or cuts, or adding some details.



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#### ACTIVITY 4: STUDENTS SHEET 3

Questions to ask members of your family, friends or fellow students.

After asking each question, use the spaces below to note down their responses.

Name of person being interviewed:

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1. What do you think of trees in general?

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2. Do you have a favourite species of tree? If so, what is it and why?

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3. Do you have a favourite tree in your neighbourhood? If so, where is it?

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4. Have you heard of *The Woodland Trust*? What do you think they do?

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5. The Woodland Trust have a project called *The Ancient Tree Hunt*, which aims to protect ancient trees in the British Isles. Do you think this is a worthwhile project? (If so, why? If not, why not?)

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WOODLAND  
TRUST

These sheets have been designed to be shared. Feel free to photocopy and provide to colleagues. The Woodland Trust is the UK's leading woodland conservation charity dedicated to the protection of our native woodland heritage. [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) [www.AncientTreeHunt.org.uk](http://www.AncientTreeHunt.org.uk)