

## Activity five: Role play

### Curriculum links:

Geography, Science, RE, PSHE, Art and Design, IT, Maths

### Background and preparation:

The rainforests are disappearing. This activity looks at different points of view of the people affected.

Show the class pictures of rainforests and areas of deforestation. Why do people cut down trees? Who needs the wood? Who makes money from the timber? Who owns the rainforest?

Did you know?

- Trees in tropical rainforests can grow as high as 60 metres.
- Commercial loggers damage 4.5 million hectares of the world's rainforests each year.
- Global trade in timber is worth more than £5 billion.
- Forest management schemes are being set up round the world which allow logging to take place, but within strict guidelines.

### Activity 5a:

Cut out the following rolls and glue onto card. Divide the class into groups and allocate a card to each group. Pupils must think about what their point of view is. Are they in favour or against cutting down rainforest trees? Why? Why not? Each group gives its opinion and a vote for/against logging is held at the end.

#### *Role 1: Government official*

You think the logging industry will give jobs to the local people and help develop the country's economy.

#### *Role 2: Logging company owner*

You will build roads, bring an electricity supply and create jobs for local people. Your company will make a lot of money.

#### *Role 3: Environment protection worker*

You believe the amount of logging which is proposed will lead to a huge loss of plant and animal species. Logging should be controlled to minimise the impact on local wildlife.

#### *Role 4: Local parent (in favour of logging)*

The logging company will give us work, they will build us a new school, bring water supplies and electricity to our homes and a new road.

#### *Role 5: Local person (against logging)*

We will lose our homes and traditional hunting methods which protect both the forest and our people. We will be shifted to new areas. We don't believe our lives will be better.

### Activity 5b:

Choose one of the roles from the role-play activity above and write a diary entry to show what that person's daily life is like. Explain what this person feels by including details about what their life has been like so far and what they hope their life will be like in the future. Make sure you show if this person is for or against logging.

### Extension:

Use the Internet to find out about a rainforest environment protection scheme.