

| Video summary | Before watching the video | During the video |
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| <p>Wildlife presenter Ferne Corrigan visits Finland to learn how plants and animals adapt to living in coniferous forests.</p> <p>Ferne is in the Nuuksio National Park in Finland, where she describes the location of coniferous or taiga forests around the world and what the climate is like.</p> <p>Ferne focuses on the adaptations of Scot’s Pine and Spruce trees, and the effect pine needles have had on both plant life and the soil fertility.</p> <p>Ferne also looks at the adaptations that the Siberian flying squirrel, reindeer and wood lemming have made to survive in this biome.</p> | <p>Look at a map of the distribution of the coniferous forests. Ask students to look for a pattern in the distribution and discuss why the coniferous forest is located where it is.</p> <p>Ask students about the types of animals that they think might live in the coniferous forest and what type of climate they live in. Students could make predictions, which they could then add to once they have watched the film.</p> <p>Introduce key terms such as: Taiga: A coniferous forest found at high latitudes. Lumber: Wood cut into logs ready to be sold. Herbaceous: Plants such as mosses, lichens and ferns which have a non-woody stem and die back to the ground each year. Nocturnal: Something that sleeps during the day and is more active at night.</p> | <p>You may wish to stop at relevant points during this short film to pose questions and check understanding or wait until the end. Useful questions might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where are coniferous forests found? • What type of climate does the coniferous forest have? • What type of trees are found in the coniferous forest? • What adaptations do trees in the coniferous forest have? • What types of plants are found at the ground layer of a coniferous forest? • What is the soil like in the coniferous forest? • What types of animals live in the coniferous forest? • What adaptations do animals in the coniferous forest have? • Why do some animals hibernate in the temperate forest? |
| After watching | | |
| <p>Ask students to look back at their predictions, were they right about what they thought they would see in the coniferous forest? Students could complete a spider diagram to note down the basic information about each of the coniferous forest characteristics: vegetation, climate, animals and location.</p> | | |

Give students an image of the Scots Pine and ask them to annotate it with their adaptations. Discuss with students how those adaptations enable the plants to survive in the climate of the coniferous forest. Students could do the same with one of the animals living in the coniferous forest such as the wood lemming or a reindeer. Students could then design their own animal or plant that is adapted to survive in the coniferous forest.

Discuss with students how they think humans would use the coniferous forests. Online mapping could be used to look at areas of settlement in coniferous forests.

| Curriculum notes | Where next? | Links |
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| <p>This clip will be relevant for teaching Geography at KS3 and GCSE.</p> <p>This topic appears in OCR, Edexcel, AQA, WJEC KS4/GCSE in England and Wales, CCEA GCSE in Northern Ireland and SOA National 4/5 in Scotland.</p> | <p>Compare the coniferous forest to a contrasting biome such as the tropical rainforest or the temperate savanna.</p> <p>Students could compare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals • Vegetation • Climate • Human uses <p>Students could also look at groups of people that live in areas of coniferous forests.</p> | <p>Distribution of ecosystems: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztcch39/revision/3</p> <p>Planet Earth - Boreal forest aerals: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02d9v40</p> |