



## Fairy Creek Teacher Information Page

Fairy Creek is an old age grown rainforest located on the southern Vancouver Island that has been logged by Teal Jones Group for profit. Some of the trees are over 1000 years old, filled with unique ecosystems. Over 1200 protestors were arrested while trying to protect the land that is situated on unceded Pacheedaht territory.

### Old Growth Forests (aka primary forests)

- Forests that have attained great age without significant disturbance
- In BC, old growth is defined as trees more than 250 years old, with some more than 1000 years of age
- Biologically diverse
- Benefits include maintenance of biodiversity, water purification, flood control, nutrient cycling, and decreasing carbon dioxide (therefore very important for climate change mitigation)
- Brazil, Canada, and Russia host 61% of the world's primary forests
- Only 2.7% of BC's original productive old growth forests remain standing

### The Teal-Jones Logging Group

- Were approved to clear roads
- Lumber was to be used largely for cedar shingles, that must be replaced every 30 years

### The Protests

- Started in August, 2020
- 92% of BC residents said that the trees were worth more standing than chopped down
- Over 1200 forest defenders have been arrested for 'civil disobedience'
- The NDP made an election promise to protect the ancient rainforests

### Logging

- Major part of BC's economy
- Should not take place in old growth forests
- Can be sustainably done when following recommendations given to the government (no clear cutting, allowing First Nation communities to have final say on their land, and not disrupting old growth)



## The Activity

Discussion questions are designed for students to build an appreciation and admiration for the forests and old age growth, before discussing the logging and protests

### *Discussion Question 1: What are the importance of trees?*

- Designed for students to recognize their emotional connection to trees
- Trees eliminate carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, are important to ecosystems, provide food (fruits and grains), shade to humans and animals, and provide lumber

### *Discussion question 2: What is the biggest tree you have seen?*

- Most kids have probably seen trees with a diameter of 2-3ft
- Some of the yellow cedar trees in Fairy Creek are 9.5ft in diameter
- Could have students calculate the circumference/cross sectional area of each and compare
- This should lead into the discussion about old age growth
- Some trees in Fairy Creek are 2000 years old

### *Discussion question 3: What are some uses for lumber?*

- Houses, furniture, paper, instruments, etc.
- This is to show that lumber is useful, and the point is not to be against it all together
- It should also show the importance that these items come from trees, which have the benefits mentioned earlier

### Indigenous / Protestor POV:

- Cannot be spoken for, but according to media this is what is known
- Want to protect the environment
- Ancient trees are not resources
- Worth more in the ground (environment is more important than money)
- Government needs to stick to their promise
- Not all logging is bad, wood is necessary but should be done sustainably

### Teal Jones POV:

- Profit is more important than environment
- Workers want to make a living
- See the trees as \$\$ - 1 ancient giant is worth a large profit
- Capitalist views
- Not thinking of the next 7 generations