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Description automatically generatedPreparation for A-Level Geography

**Key Terms:** vegetation, carbon emissions, climate change, deforestation, afforestation, feedback loops

**A-Level Topic:** The Carbon Cycle and Energy Security

**Key Question: Should we plant trees to save our planet?**

We are always told that trees absorb carbon, so we should be planting as many trees as we can to reduce the impacts of climate change. This is true, forests are a carbon sink (mostly) But how easy is it? Can we just plant trees anywhere? How many trees would we need to make a significant reduction to carbon in the atmosphere? Simply, is it going to be enough?

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| **A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated**  **What to watch** | Newspaper  **What to read** | **A close up of a logo  Description automatically generated**  **What to do** | |
| Why vegetation is important to the Amazon:  <https://youtu.be/LBe4LTLOLvU>  Why planting trees won’t save the atmosphere:  <https://youtu.be/dBviC797sTk>  Planting trees to take on climate change isn’t as easy as YouTubers might think:  <https://www.theverge.com/2019/10/25/20932700/youtubers-climate-change-team-trees>  (also some reading)  Listen: (only after 26th May)  <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000jf8c> | Why are trees important to Water, Carbon and Nitrogen Cycles:  <https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2632-trees-and-natural-cycles>  How to erase 100 years of carbon emissions…  <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/07/how-to-erase-100-years-carbon-emissions-plant-trees/> (also a little bit of watching)  Planting trees could do more harm than good:  <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-52200045> | Use the resources provided to write note that answer the following questions:   1. Why are trees important to the water and carbon cycles around the world? 2. What are the other benefits of planting trees? Don’t just consider the climate change/carbon sink benefits here, but also soils, nutrient cycle etc. 3. Just how many trees do we need to plant to make an impact? What are the problems with this? 4. Why could planting trees be bad for some environments? 5. Deforestation creates a positive feedback loop within a cycle (positive as in it enhances the effect, not because it is good). How can afforestation make a negative feedback loop? See help on next page! | |
| Television  **What to submit:**  Using your notes, write a one-page report to answer the key question: ‘Should we plant trees to save the planet?’  Your report should be well presented and informative to show an understanding of the content that you have been investigating. Use the key questions above to help you structure your writing. You can add any maps, images or diagrams to illustrate your points. Try to reach a conclusion to the key question. | | |
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