Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Conservation and Biodiversity Classroom activity pack

This pack contains a series of activities for you to complete with your class both before and after your visit to Kew.

You may choose to do all of the activities or just select one.
Post-visit activities are intended to build on the learning from the educational session at Kew. Many of the resources can be used on a whiteboard or can be printed.

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Pre-visit teacher notes

KS5 Conservation and Biodiversity

Thank you for booking the Conservation and Biodiversity education session at Kew. You can use the pre-visit activity to support your students' learning.

Ahead of your visit, your students could answer the question below. They can tell us about their answers when they come to Kew.

Question: Why is plant conservation important?
What might RBG Kew's conservation projects involve?

Students can look on the Kew website to find out about some of the conservation projects that RBG Kew is involved in around the world. This could be completed as homework.

You could encourage your students to discuss the following:

- Seed banking in the Millennium Seed Bank
- Kew's living collection including endangered and extinct species
- Assessing plant extinction levels in our Plant Assessment Unit
- Sustainable agriculture projects e.g. the Useful Plants Project
- Management of protected areas and replanting

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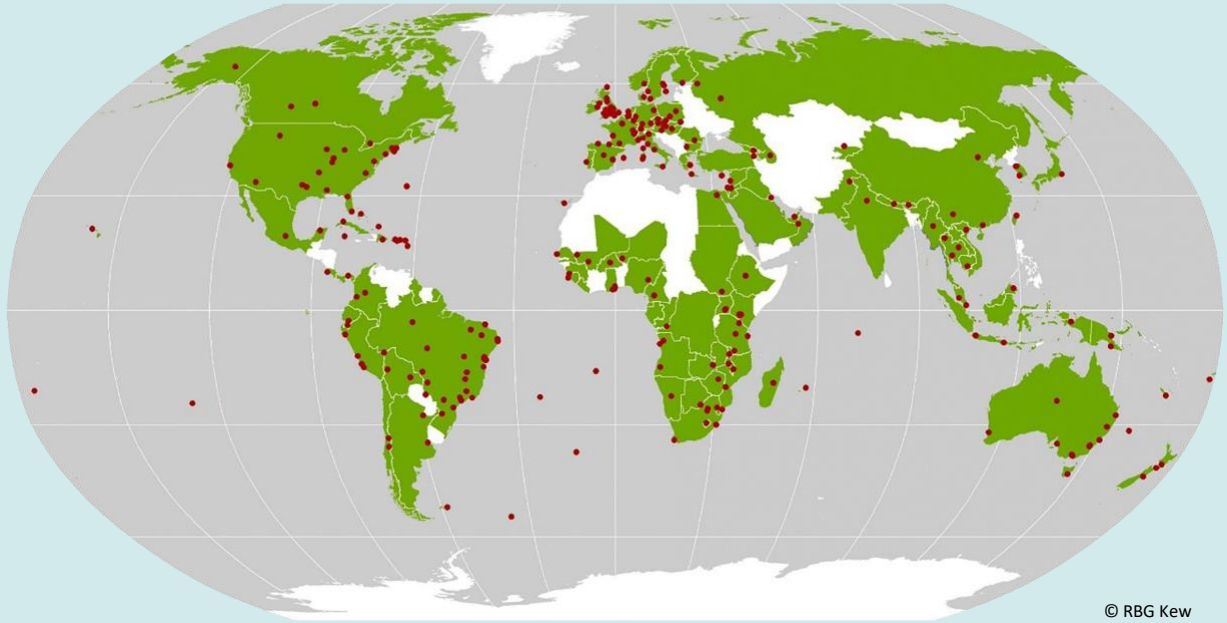
Pre-visit student activity

KS5 Conservation and Biodiversity

This image shows the global reach of Kew's scientific work.



Collaborating institutions Countries Kew works in

A lot of this scientific work is to do with plant conservation.

Why is plant conservation important? What might RBG Kew's conservation projects involve?

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Pre-visit student activity

Did you discuss any of these ideas?

- Seed banking in the Millennium Seed Bank
- Kew's living collection including endangered and extinct species
- Assessing plant extinction levels in our Plant Assessment Unit
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- Management of protected areas and replanting

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Post-visit teacher notes

KS5 Conservation and Biodiversity

Thank you for bringing your students to Kew.

We hope that the teaching session assisted in developing the skills and knowledge of your students and provided them with an insight into the amazing plants and plant science at Kew.

Following your visit, you can use the post-visit activity to further support your students' learning.

Pupils could answer the exam-style question on the following page, and then use the mark scheme to check their answers.

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Post-visit student activity

Have a go at an **exam-style question**

Scientists have discovered that plant biodiversity in rainforests is declining.

Describe the factors that may be contributing to the loss of plant biodiversity within the rainforest and suggest what the consequences might be if biodiversity continues to decline.

[6 marks]

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Post-visit student activity

Check your answers

Question	Marking Guidance	Mark	Comments
1.	Max 3 **causes** of biodiversity decline from: 1. Change in land use – replacement of rainforest with monoculture crops/cattle farms/settlements. 2. Climate change – plants may not be adapted to a changing climate. 3. Invasive species – may provide competition to indigenous plants. 4. Farming practices – use of herbicides/pesticides/fertilisers pollutes water systems. Max 2 **consequences** of biodiversity decline form: 1. Smaller gene pool – plants will be more susceptible to disease. 2. Endangerment or extinction of some plant species. 3. Impact on ecosystem e.g. food webs.	6	Accept 'deforestation'