



Trees and climate change



Arildo and Roberto Surui were born and raised in the rainforest; appeared in the Children of the Amazon film; went to University and now work for the Surui Carbon Project. They monitor deforestation and help to raise awareness of the importance of forests in combating climate change. Forests store billions of tonnes of carbon; the average tree sequesters (removes) about 25 kilograms of CO₂ from the atmosphere every year. Arildo and Roberto

To get a rough estimate of the amount of carbon being sequestered by a tree in your school you need to identify the type of tree; measure the circumference; calculate the diameter; estimate the height and enter the data in the online calculator. It's easier than it sounds and it can be fun.

1. Measure the circumference of the trunk at chest height.
2. Divide the circumference by 3.14 – this gives the diameter.
3. Estimate the height of tree – here's a few suggestions:
4. Measure your height and length of your shadow; compare length of your shadow with length of tree shadow. If length of tree shadow is 10 times longer than your shadow, tree will be about 10 times your height.
5. Ask a friend to stand with a metre ruler next to tree. Stand well back and estimate how many rulers would equal the height of the tree.
6. Use a clinometer – you can make one using a protractor, string and a weight. You'll also need to find out how to use one!
7. Enter the data in the Carbon Calculator: www.aie.org.uk/carbon/carbon_calc.php

Write to Arildo and Roberto to ask them about their work and tell them about your tree survey.

Find out more about the Surui Carbon Project

www.childrenoftheamazon.com/videos/the-surui-carbon-project-a-great-adventure/