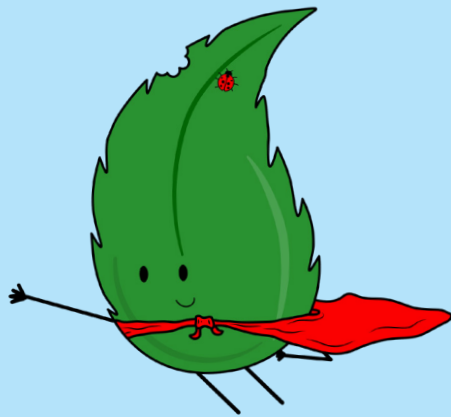
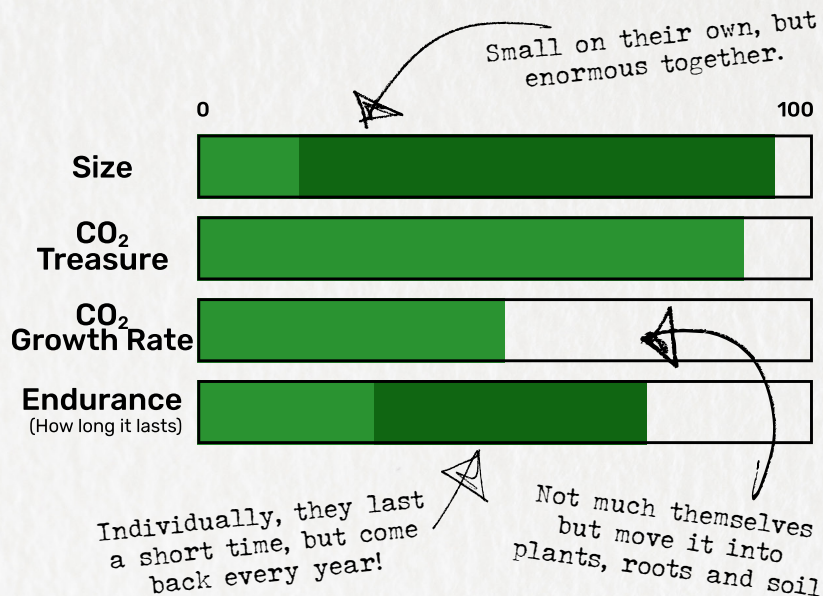


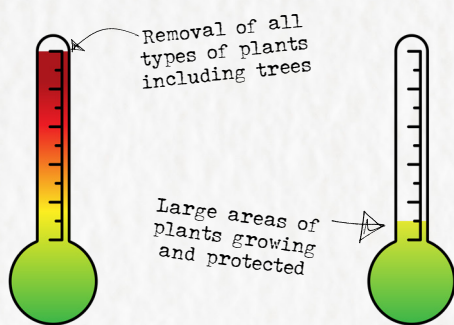
HERO PROFILE



POWER FEATURES.



CLIMATE CHANGE INDICATOR.



HISTORY.

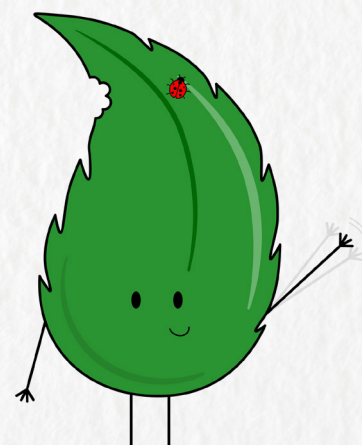
Coming in so many different shapes and sizes, this hero makes appearances at different times of year all over the world but is always busy. More than just trees, this changeling can appear in forests, gardens, parks and schools to make things clean and safe for us all.

THREATS/VULNERABILITIES.

Pollution (meaning they cannot grow as well)
Removal (taken away for crops or other uses)
Pests and diseases (can kill the plants)
Building over them (houses, roads, driveways)

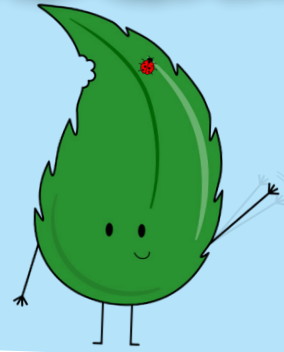
TEAM MEMBERS.

Trees
Meadow flowers
Garden plants
Hedgerows



TREES

Leaf team member



© WOODLAND TRUST / NIAL BENVIE



© PHILIP REGEY

Thousands of years ago, much of the UK was covered in wild woodland. Now, it is much, much less.

Today only 2.5% of the UK is covered by ancient woodland, where many of the trees are more than 800 years old!

Trees soak up lots of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere each year and store it in their leaves, branches and roots.

Trees can also be found in hedgerows — another very important habitat and team member of Leaf!

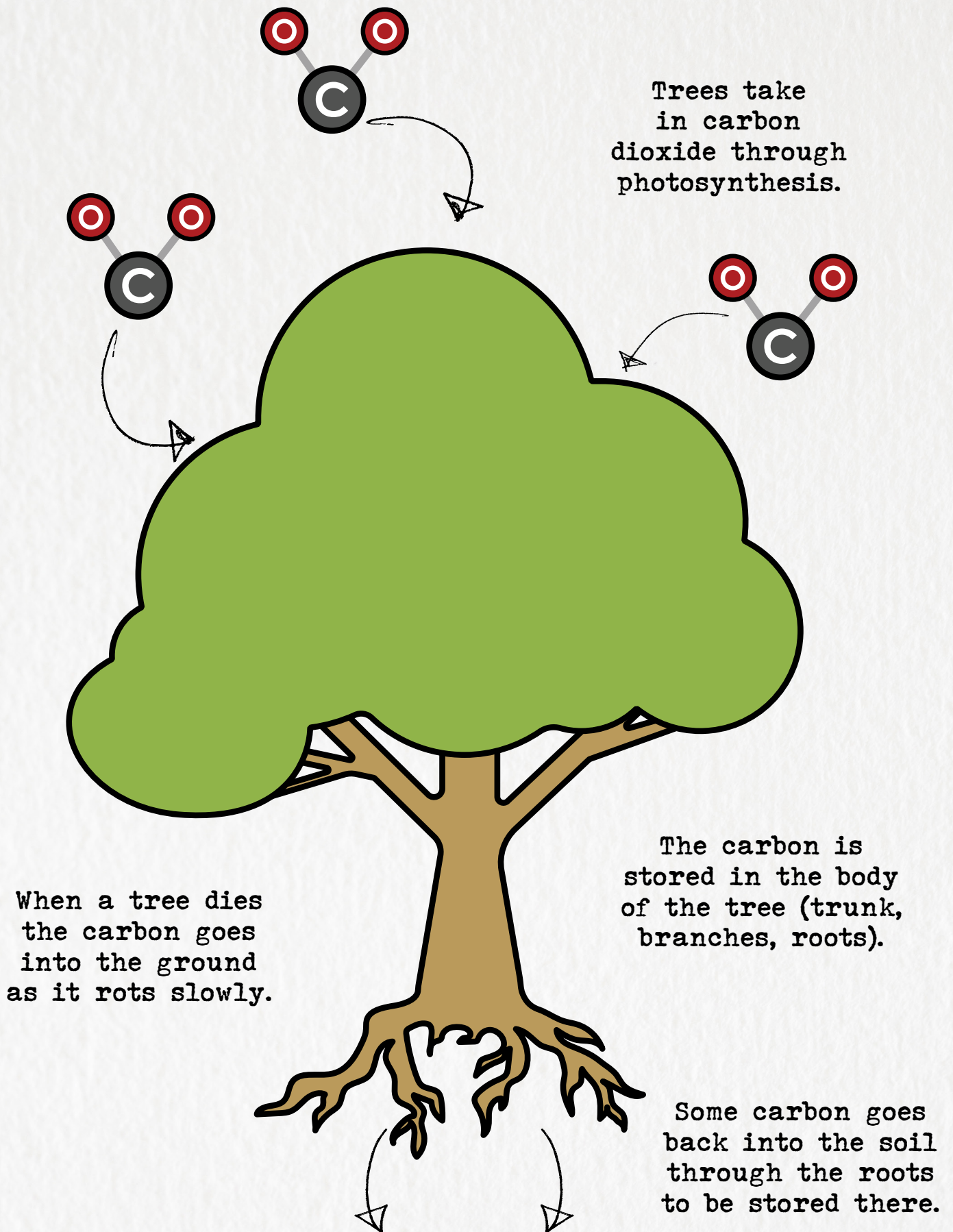
We need to protect old trees and existing woodlands, and also connect them up by planting new ones.



© WOODLAND TRUST / NIAL BENVIE

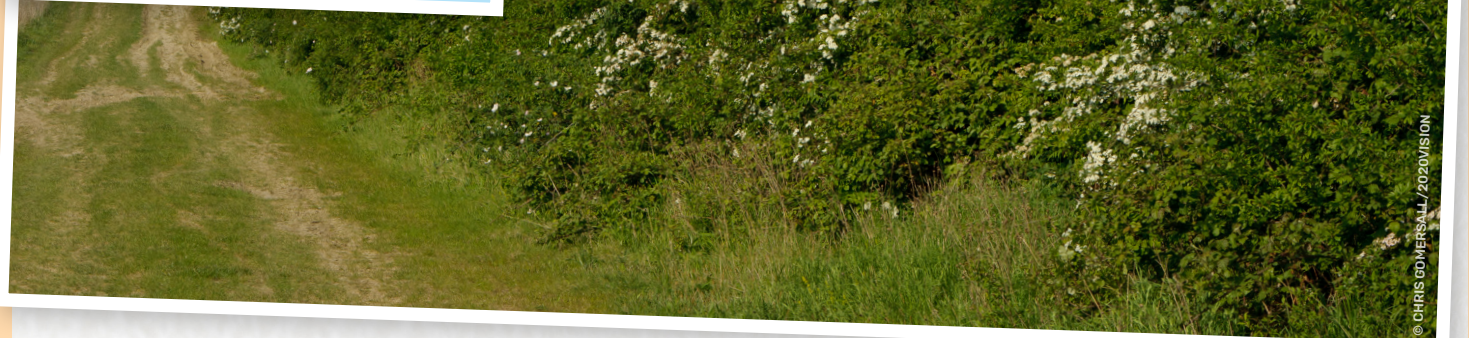
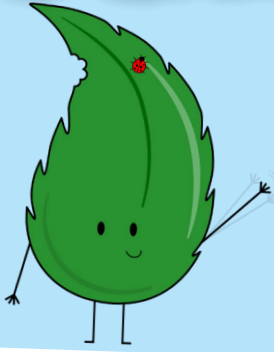
Fun fact: the UK's oldest tree is the Fortingall Yew and this grandfather is between 2,000 and 3,000 years old!

How do trees help take carbon from the atmosphere?



HEDGEROWS

Leaf team member



© CHRIS COMERSALL / 2020VISION

Hedgerows come in many shapes and sizes, from short and scraggy to very high and bushy. They are hugely important but often taken for granted or unloved.



© KIERON HUSTON

Since 1945, tens of thousands of hedgerows – more than half the UK's total – have been removed and so too has their benefits for climate and nature.

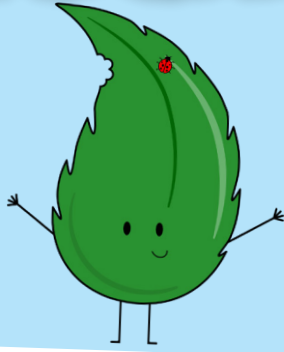
Hedgerows are key paths for wildlife to move between different habitats.

Hedgerows can help to reduce flooding and soil erosion, they also reduce pollutants getting into rivers and streams.

We need to protect and care for existing hedgerows and plant lots more new ones.

MEADOW FLOWERS

Leaf team member



© JAMES ADLER

97% of British Wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s.

Wildflowers like poppies, cornflower and corn marigold all used to be found in farm edges and other rough patches of ground.

Today, lots of work is being done to turn places like roadsides into flower meadows... they look nice and help lots of species, including many insects.



© DERBYSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

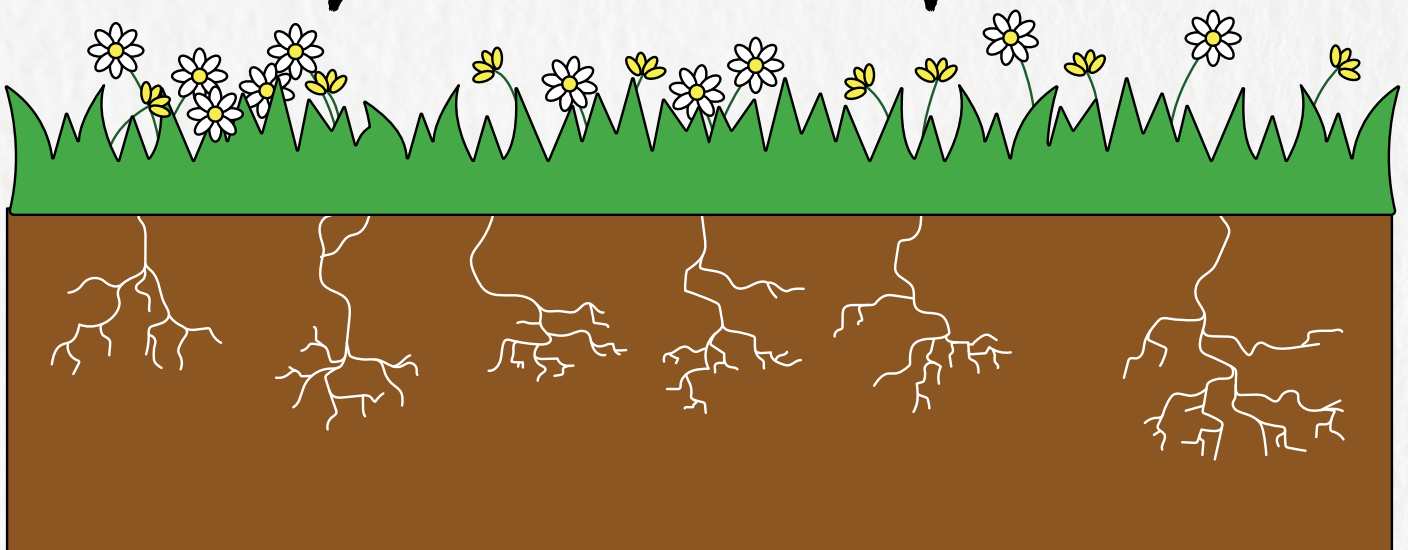
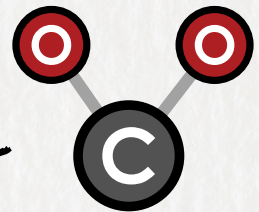
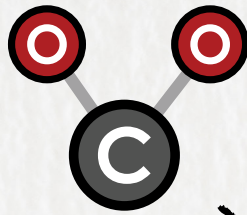
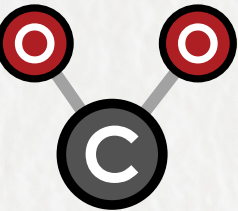


© TERRY WHITTAKER/2020VISION

How do meadows help take carbon from the atmosphere?

Like all plants, meadow flowers take carbon out of the atmosphere through photosynthesis.

Carbon is stored and cycled through the plants.

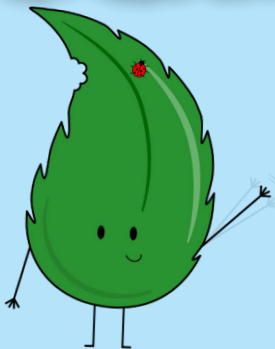


Roots pass carbon into the soil and when the plants die, they also carry carbon with them.

Having a rich meadow planted where there would be bare earth or just grass is a way to make a difference.

GARDEN PLANTS

Leaf team member



Growing garden plants means that there can be plants growing at all times of year.

Around 87% of houses in the UK have a garden.



Even in small spaces, you can still be creative with how you grow your plants!



BUILDINGS
AND CONCRETE



CUTTING TREES



DRIVEWAYS INSTEAD
OF GARDENS



BARE, PATCHY
OR THIN GRASS

THREATS

EROSION



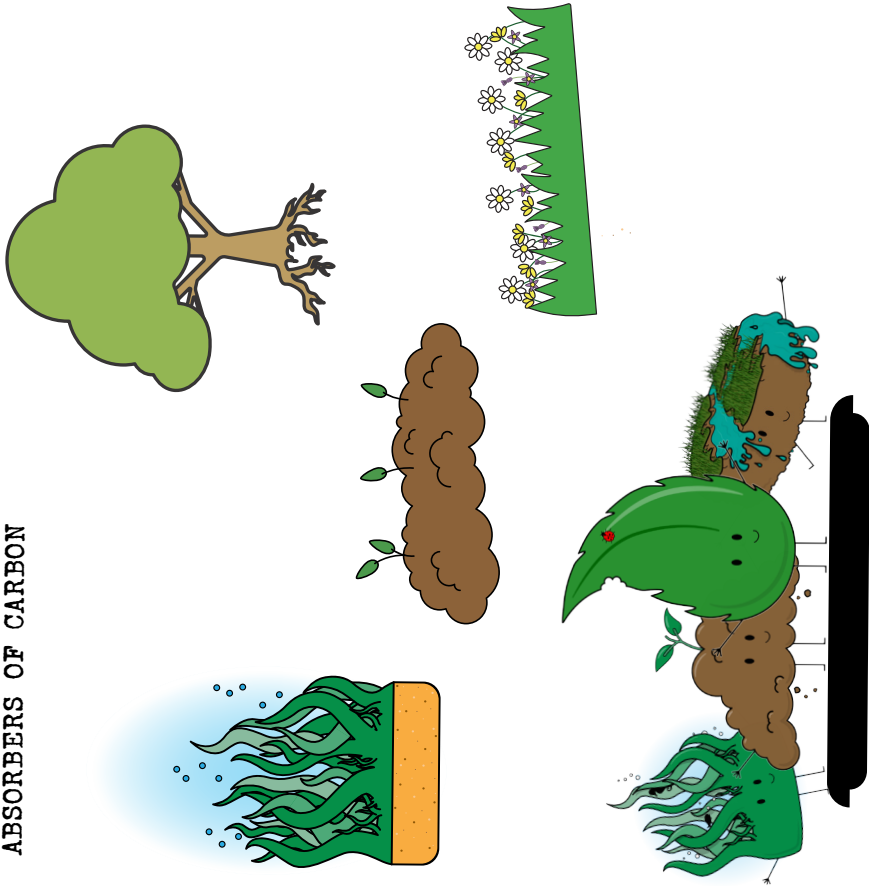
TRAMPLING - HUMANS
OR ANIMALS



INTENSE FARMING

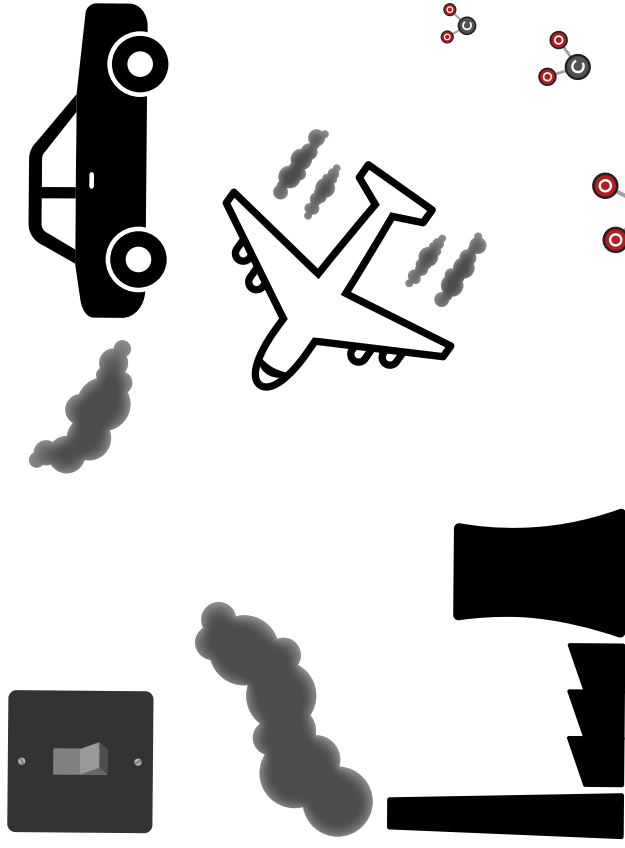


ABSORBERS OF CARBON

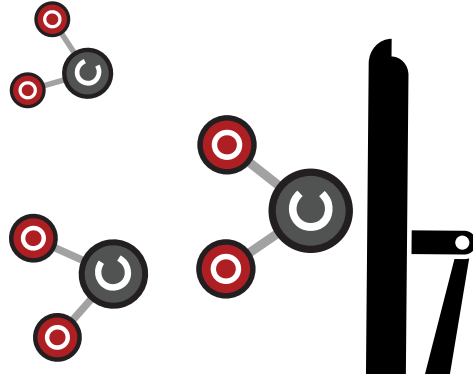


Another way to bring balance is to increase the number and strength of heroes to absorb carbon so **MORE** is taken out of the atmosphere.

PRODUCERS OF CARBON



One way to bring balance is to **REDUCE** the amount of carbon emissions we are producing so **LESS** is being released into the atmosphere.



How can I help?
Who can I influence?



Some ideas to investigate:

How? Assembly? Noticeboard? Webpage? Letters? Newspapers?
Videos? Posters? Leaflets? Support Campaigns?

Other sources of information



How to grow a mini wildflower meadow



Apply for free trees



How to Set up a School Garden



Trees

wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-grow-wild-patch

rhs.org.uk/advice/How-to-grow-a-mini-wildflower-meadow

wildlifetrusts.org/wonderful-woodlands

wildlifetrusts.org/grassland-solutions

Trees

woodlandtrust.org.uk/trees-woods-and-wildlife/british-trees/how-trees-fight-climate-change/

woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/your-school/plant-trees-with-your-school/

Garden Plants

growveg.co.uk/guides/how-to-set-up-a-school-garden/

schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Info-Sheet/Growing-Vegetables-in-Schools

wildlifetrusts.org/natural-solutions-climate-change/wild-wetlands