



Sustaining forests

History, wildlife, soils and trees,
this is the stuff that interests me.
I'm a scientist with a funny name,
working in forestry is my game.

You'll find me in forests around New South Wales,
in Eden, Dubbo and Arm-i-dale.
Healthy forests are my aim,
for our future they must remain.

Indeed this is a complex task,
of forests, we have a lot to ask.
You see forests are busy places,
used for timber, habitat and recreation spaces.

Forests are home to animals and plants,
let's not forget leeches, fungi and ants.
All forms of life rely on each other,
for food, company and some cover.

Creeks, gullies, logs and dirt,
are places where life forms love to lurk.
Habitat is another name for this,
conserving these must not be missed.

Humans enjoy forests too,
to bushwalk, picnic and canoe.
A place to camp and relax, to swim,
fossick and explore dirt tracks.

Oils, flowers, seeds and medicines,
firewood, paper, dye even resins.
Part of our lives every day,
can you believe the role forests play?

Forests are so biodiverse,
the variety of life is something we should nurse,
The way everything works together,
is studied so forests are forever.

Wildfires, ferals and pests,
keep the forest from being its best.
I work to control threats such as these,
harmful as they are to biodiversity.

I plant forests on farms, trees on cleared land,
giving Mother Nature, a helping hand.
Reducing salinity and cleaning the air,
our land, growing trees can repair.

I work with engineers, cartographers and ecologists,
rangers, archaeologists even hydrologists.
Forests for products, fun and to learn,
forests for life is what we all yearn.

So I study, watch, test and plan,
I think about soils, water and slope of the land.
I survey for wildlife and native plants,
I map sacred sites, catchments and timber stands.

Part of my job every day,
is caring for forests in every way.
As a Forester I have a lot to do,
working in a State forest somewhere near you.

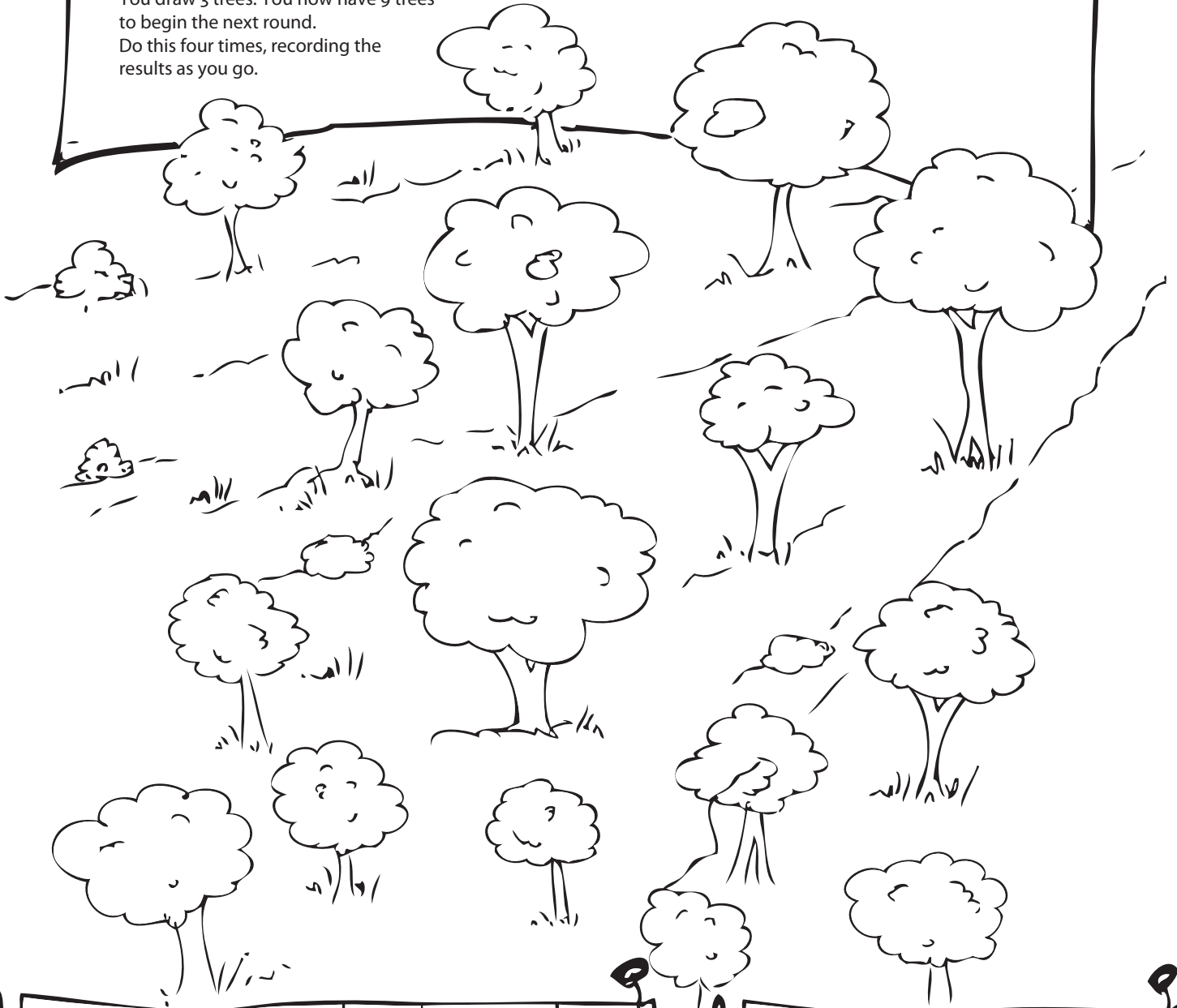
Poem by Carmen Perry

Take on the forester challenge to see how your decisions about timber could affect forests 100 years from now. The picture below represents your supply of timber – a renewable resource that will be harvested four times in 100 years. You are able to harvest timber for houses, furniture and paper freely from this area of forest. The trees will regrow naturally between each round, replenishing your supply of timber. Keep in mind the following:

- You must take at least four trees per round to maintain timber supplies to local sawmills
- At the end of each round, the trees will be replenished by half of what remains in the forest.

To play, draw a line through the trees you want to harvest. Count the trees that remain in the forest after harvesting. Use a pencil to replenish your supply of trees by drawing in half the trees that remained after your harvest. For example, you start with 16 trees. You harvest 10, you are left with 6 trees in your forest. You draw 3 trees. You now have 9 trees to begin the next round.

Do this four times, recording the results as you go.



| | to start | harvest | left | replenished (ignore 1/2 trees) | to finish |
|---------|----------|---------|------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Round 1 | 16 | | | | |
| Round 2 | | | | | |
| Round 3 | | | | | |
| Round 4 | | | | | |

- Did your forest grow, remain the same or disappear?

Foresters aim to harvest trees for our needs now, plus make sure there will be trees in forests in the future. NSW native forests are managed sustainably, meaning no more trees are harvested than the forest can regrow naturally.

- If you could start again, is there anything you would do differently?
- Why do we harvest timber from NSW native forests?