



Luna

Julia Butterfly Hill
California

☀ Call to Action

Learn more about the forests in your area, and find out what steps are being taken to protect them. Join together with other activists to educate your fellow citizens about the importance of our forests, and find ways to help sustain them!
www.circleofflife.org

☀ Values

- Courage
- Commitment
- Tenacity
- Patience
- Determination
- Environmentalism

☀ Lessons Learned

Changing your perspective can help you discover the beauty of the world around you.

Respect the Earth and other living beings; they have been here longer than we have, so we should treat them like our honored elders.

Stand up for what you believe in, even if it means standing alone.

In 1997, Julia “Butterfly” Hill climbed up an ancient redwood tree named “Luna” in Northern California.

Like many of the trees around it, Luna was scheduled to be cut down. Julia climbed the tree to protest its being cut down, and went on to live in the tree for more than two years. She had to brave the cold and the heat, the wind and the rain, and the sound of chainsaws cutting trees down all around her. Thanks to her sacrifice and dedication, Julia managed what seemed impossible: to save this ancient redwood tree, and also educate millions of people about the dangers of deforestation. Through her courage and tenacity, she became a famous environmental activist.

☀ Language Arts

Create a series of short videos for TikTok or YouTube, in which you answer the following questions: What are redwood trees? Where do they grow? How old are the redwood forests in the U.S.? At what rate are they being cut down? Are there any efforts being made to replant the trees that have been cut down? How long would it take a redwood forest to recover from the kind of deforestation described in the story? What can be done to prevent the destruction of these forests?

Using illustrations (either your own, or images you find on the internet), rewrite Julia and Luna’s story as a children’s book, telling it from Luna’s perspective.

Aside from killing trees, what other environmental problems are caused by deforestation? Create a 10-minute video in which you explain how the practices of the logging industry cause environmental damage that goes well beyond the cutting down of trees.

Read the following articles about the health benefits of forests: **Bathing in the Wisdom of Forests – [The Esperanza Project](#)¹ and Forest Bathing is an [Evidence-Based Wellness Practice](#)².** Highlight the main ideas in each article.

Then, based on those ideas, write an essay explaining why it is good for kids to spend time in treehouses, wooded areas, and playing in trees.

Create a collection of images (it can be drawings or photographs, either your own, or ones you find on the internet) in which you explore what it would be like to live in a treehouse: what you would need to pack to be comfortable, types of food and clothing you would bring, etc.

STEM Activities

Using this [curriculum on California redwoods](#)³, students will explore the causes and impacts of climate change as it affects redwood trees.

Research and evaluate different conservation techniques being used around the world to preserve forests and trees, taking into account economic, social, and environmental cost-benefit ratios.

Research and learn about the kinds of trees found in your area. Which of the trees are native to the area, and which are not? What benefits (or problems) do these trees bring to the local ecosystem? How does climate change impact these trees? What are some of the ways we can reduce the effects of climate change on them?

Sustainability Innovations

In addition to Julia's forest-planting efforts, [Calforests](#)⁴ and similar organizations focus on legislative and regulatory changes to ensure the safety of California forests.

[Save the Redwoods](#)⁵ is an organization that highlights different types of redwood trees, and the threats they face. Review the land and restoration projects that Save the Redwoods and their partners are focusing on.

As technology and society progress, what are some innovations that can assist reforestation and tree-saving projects? [One Tree Planted](#)⁶ highlights 10 innovative breakthroughs to help with reforestation. Research one of the 10 breakthroughs and the latest advancements that have improved this innovation.

Sustainability Career Pathways

Environmental Educator. As Julia notes, "[We are of this Earth and from this Earth](#)⁷." Teaching students about our connection with the planet, through environmental studies, outdoor education, and embedding sustainability in all academic subjects is essential in helping future generations understand the environmental challenges we face--and their possible solutions. [Learn more about this field here](#)⁸.

Forest Ecologist. Recently we've come to learn how much trees communicate with and support each other--[even across species](#)⁹. But there is so much more to learn about forest ecosystems. Do you want to study forests? Learn more about the field of [forest ecology here](#)¹⁰.

Park Ranger. If you love trees, but don't necessarily want to live in one for two years like Julia did, becoming a park ranger could be for you! Park rangers are both educators and leading protectors of the world's parklands. This is a career opportunity for those who

want to educate and care for forests and parks. [Learn more about being a park ranger here¹¹](#).

1 <https://www.esperanzaproject.com/2021/ecotourism/bathing-in-the-wisdom-of-forests/>

2 <https://health.uconn.edu/student-wellness/physical-wellness/evidence-based-wellness/>

3 https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1J6jB_CoGVnawHbcdZI7bBH_BP5N1Gwbt

4 <https://calforests.org/>

5 <https://www.savetheredwoods.org/what-we-do/our-work/partner/conservation-organizations/>

6 <https://onetreepanted.org/blogs/stories/breakthroughs-for-forests>

7 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cZ-ZUOR2Oy0>

8 <https://www.environmentalscience.org/career/environmental-educator>

9 <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2021/05/04/993430007/trees-talk-to-each-other-mother-tree-ecologist-hears-lessons-for-people-too>

10 <https://bestaccreditedcolleges.org/articles/become-a-forest-ecologist-education-and-career-roadmap.html>

11 <https://www.parkrangeredu.org/>

