

Tree restoration

it's now or never

Worksheet for Milton Keynes (England)

Notes for Teachers

This activity is suitable for children aged 7-11.

The children are asked to estimate the amount of 'green' land available for planting trees in 1984 and 2019 around the city of Milton Keynes.

Questions to stimulate further discussion are included.

Useful websites:

Trees for Cities; <https://www.treesforcities.org/>

Woodland Trust; <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/your-school/plant-trees-with-your-school/>

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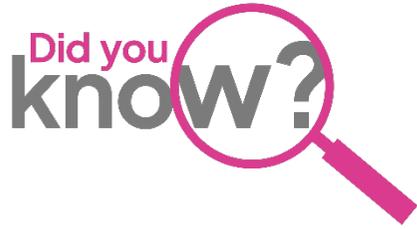
Milton Keynes satellite image 1984

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Milton Keynes satellite image 2019

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The PSTT is extremely grateful to the Earth Observation Team at Plymouth Marine Laboratory who provided the satellite images for this worksheet.



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Questions

How much of the land in and around Milton Keynes was available to plant trees in 1984?

- Each square of the blue grid represents an area of 1km x 1km or 1km².
- Look at the different colours of the squares:
 - Grey squares represent land covered by buildings and roads (**urbanised**).
 - Green and brown squares represent land covered by farmland, woodland or other countryside.
- For this investigation, assume that any squares which are mostly green or brown squares could be used to grow trees.

Calculate the percentage of total land available for tree planting?

$$\% \text{ of total land that could be used to grow trees} = \frac{\text{number of green or brown squares}}{\text{total number of squares}} \times 100$$

How much land in and around Milton Keynes was available to plant trees in 2019?

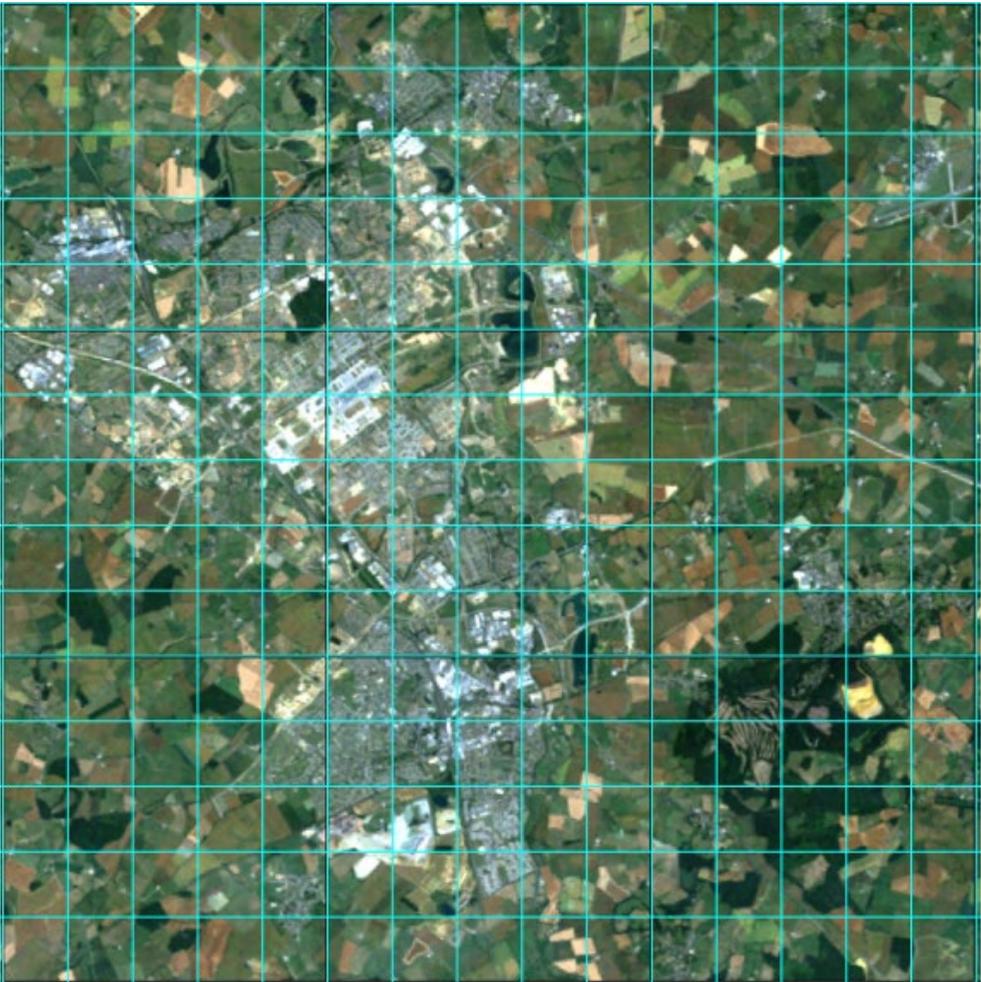
- Look at the next map of Milton Keynes and its surroundings in 2019.
- Follow the same method to estimate the percentage of total land available for tree planting in 2019.

More questions to consider:

1. How did the area of countryside change from 1984 to 2019? Why do you think this happened?
2. If towns and cities continue to grow, can you predict what area of countryside might be available in 2050?
3. Where on the map do you think would be the most sensible place to plant trees now? Why?
4. Which types of tree do you think would be suitable to grow near Milton Keynes?

Milton Keynes 1984, Image from Landsat 5

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0 5 10 15km

Milton Keynes 2019, Image from Landsat 8

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