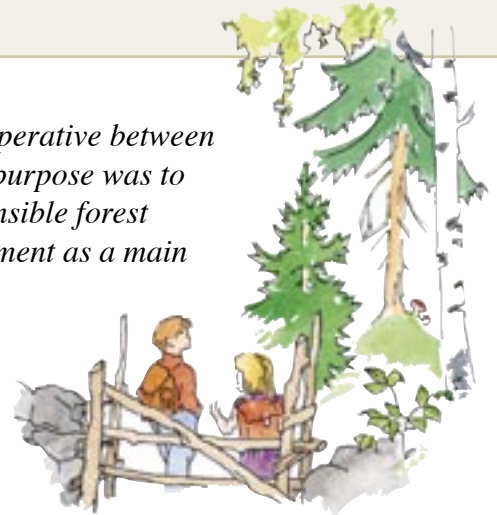


# Learning with the forest

The **Learning with the forest** programme started in 1983 through cooperative between public and private forestry organizations and the forest industry. The purpose was to establish a base for dialogue and understanding of the fact that responsible forest management is built upon scientific facts and has sustainable development as a main goal.

For the last years about 150 000 - 180 000 schoolchildren have joined in different practical activities each year (about 30% of all pupils). In 1999 the Ministry of the Environment made a report of environmental activities in schools where **Learning with the Forest** was stated as the number one environmental programme in the schools.



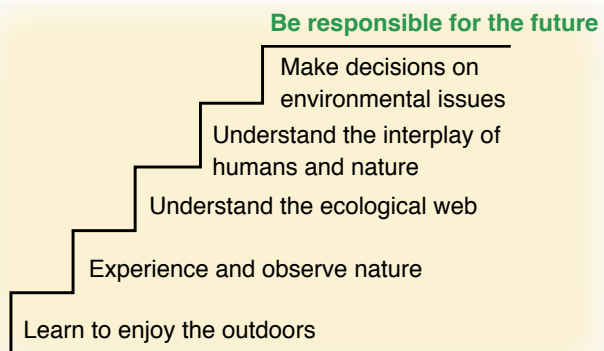
## Basic philosophy

The teaching programme is adapted to the general guidelines laid down by the school authorities. All educational activities are adapted to outdoor education ideas.

The programme aims to encourage the understanding of the many functions forests and forest based products fulfil for people; *cultural, ecological, economic and social.*



Fig: Pedagogical stairs describing the development of students' environmental maturity



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## Pedagogical principles

Some of the most important pedagogical principles to be taken into account are:

- Differentiation in teaching
- Proper progression
- Integration between subjects

The components of *Learning with the Forest* are:

- Exercises designed for the pupils at each grade level
- Manuals for the teachers
- A training area as close to the school as possible
- A forester or wood industry as a liaison for the school
- Teacher training courses



## International program

[www.leaf-international.org](http://www.leaf-international.org)

The Norwegian *Learning with the Forest* programme is one of the partners behind the international *Learning About Forests* programme. The programme aims to encourage school classes and teachers to use forests for educational activities. The purpose is to encourage teachers and pupils to go to forests, learn from them and in them, and to learn further by sharing experiences internationally.

While the *Learning About Forests* programme is a relatively new program in forest education, it builds on the accumulated experience of well-established programmes in the European countries. The aim is to support existing national projects and to inspire the establishment of new programmes in countries where forest education programmes do not exist.



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