

MANTLE OF THE EXPERT –11th October 2006

- **Context for learning:** *A company who run a tree growing business known as the 'Foresters of Dunmow'.*
- **Narrative and productive tension:** *The Company has just received a commission from the World Heritage Commission, to grow a large number of sequoias in order to safeguard the species in the wild. One challenge is how to ensure they will be safe for the next thousand years. However reports are coming in of the spread of the chestnut virus and its impact on localities- especially the parks of England who are overwhelmed with the task to sort out.*
- **Topic area: Curriculum area(s):** *PHSE/growth and growing/key NC skills- environmental education/Key skills NC/problem solving and designing solutions that work.*
- **Enquiry Questions:** *How can the world ensure that species of trees that take millennia to grow are safeguarded?*
- **Expertise required by class:** *Soil conditions/nurturing forests/working in harsh environments/working with dangerous machinery/knowledge of growth of trees/cutting back and fending off diseases of trees for example the virus attacks on the great chestnuts of England.*
- **Client(s):** *The WHC/county councils needing help to combat the viral attacks on chestnuts/landowners requiring help to grow tree species/clients who want huge trees moved that have overgrown their spaces/the forestry commission who need space and people to increase the growth of English species of trees/a visitors centre and travel around the site for a range of people-schools-universities-people from abroad.*
- **Commission(s):** *WHC/schools who wish to visit/environmental who want the company to move large trees out of the way of road and building works/visitors from abroad who wish to set up a similar business.*
- **Steps and use of sign systems:** *We will begin the work through an ENACTIVE approach-an emergency where a large horse chestnut (Aesculus) is suspected of having the chestnut viral disease and is in a park used by many children. The chestnut in question is remembered by the local people as a great source of shade/fun and 'spiritual warmth'.*
- **Notes/use of MoE tools:** *I will attempt today to demonstrate how the system can breathe life into a context for a long time. Please refer to the booklet on Mantle of the Expert for further information.*

Luke Abbott

(Project Tutor: Essex Mantle of the Expert)