

The History of Scottish Forests

Danielle Maher



Introduction

In this unit we will be looking back at the history of Scottish forests.

Looking first at the ways in which the trees first populated Scotland after the last ice age. From there we will look at events which have impacted upon forest populations before looking at how the forests of today are used now.

Pupils will be encouraged to research topics of interest. The main focus of this unit will be climate change and how this will effect our forests. This unit will also deal with a theoretical situation in which the ice has melted from the polar ice caps and places such as Greenland.



Experiences and outcomes

Literacy (LIT): 3-02a, 3-04a, 3-07a, 3-14a, 3-21a, 3-22a, 3-24a, 3-28a.

Numeracy (MNU): 3-07a, 3-08a, 3-20a.

Science (SCN): 3-01a, 3-05a, 3-20a.

Social (SOC): 3-01a, 3-02a, 3-07a, 3-08a, 3-10a.

How is climate change affecting Scottish forests?

Climate change brought about by the human population is occurring at a rate where plants, animals and ecosystems are unable to adapt quickly enough. This endangers our lifestyles, economy and culture as well as individual species and landscapes.

It is not just the changes to the climate that are a problem but the rising number of pests and diseases thriving in these new conditions.



In this unit we will look at the factors affecting climate change and its effects on different ecosystems.

Pupils will then choose a tree, plant or animal present in

Scottish forests and research how this species would be affected.



References

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/>

<http://ekn.defra.gov.uk/>

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

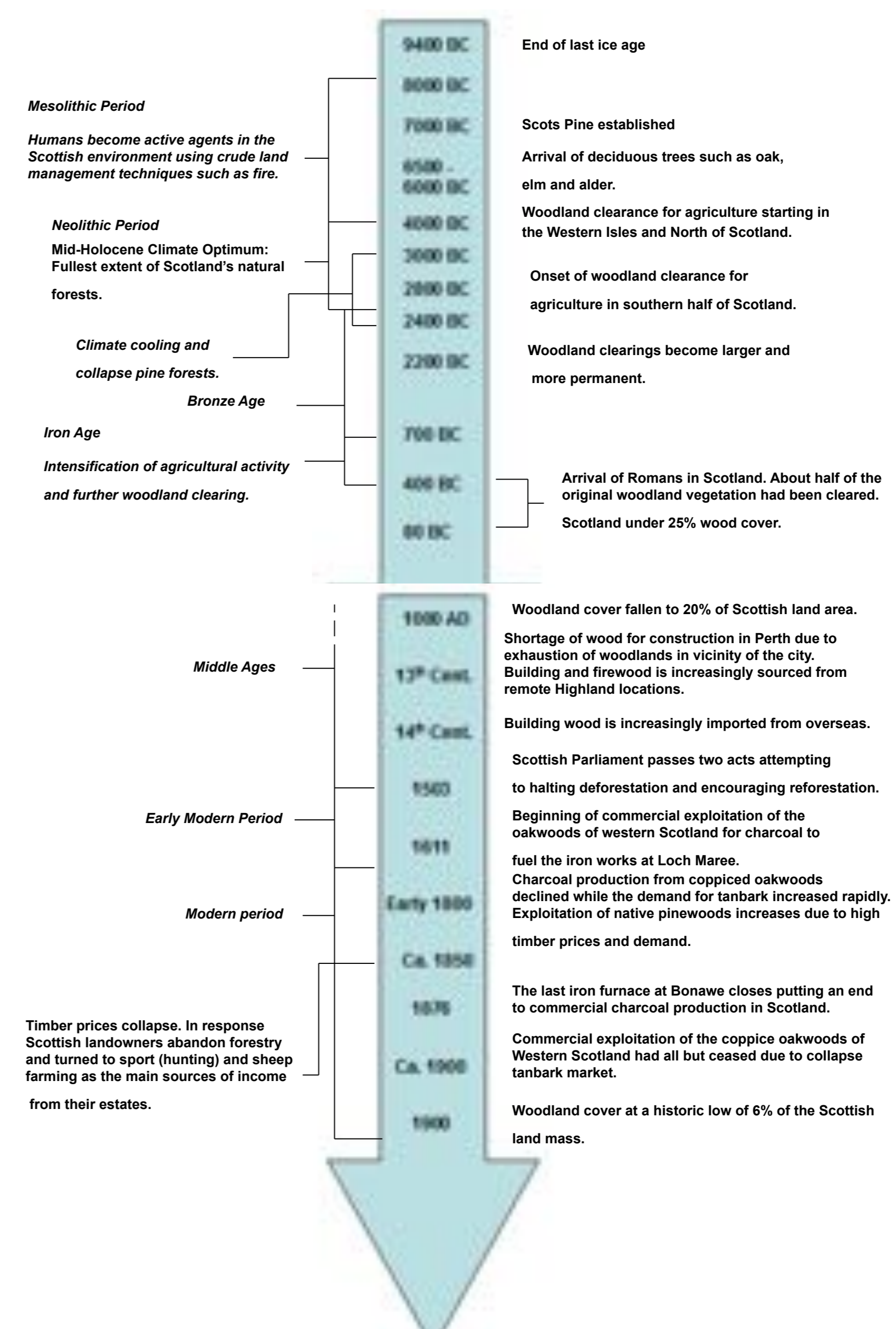
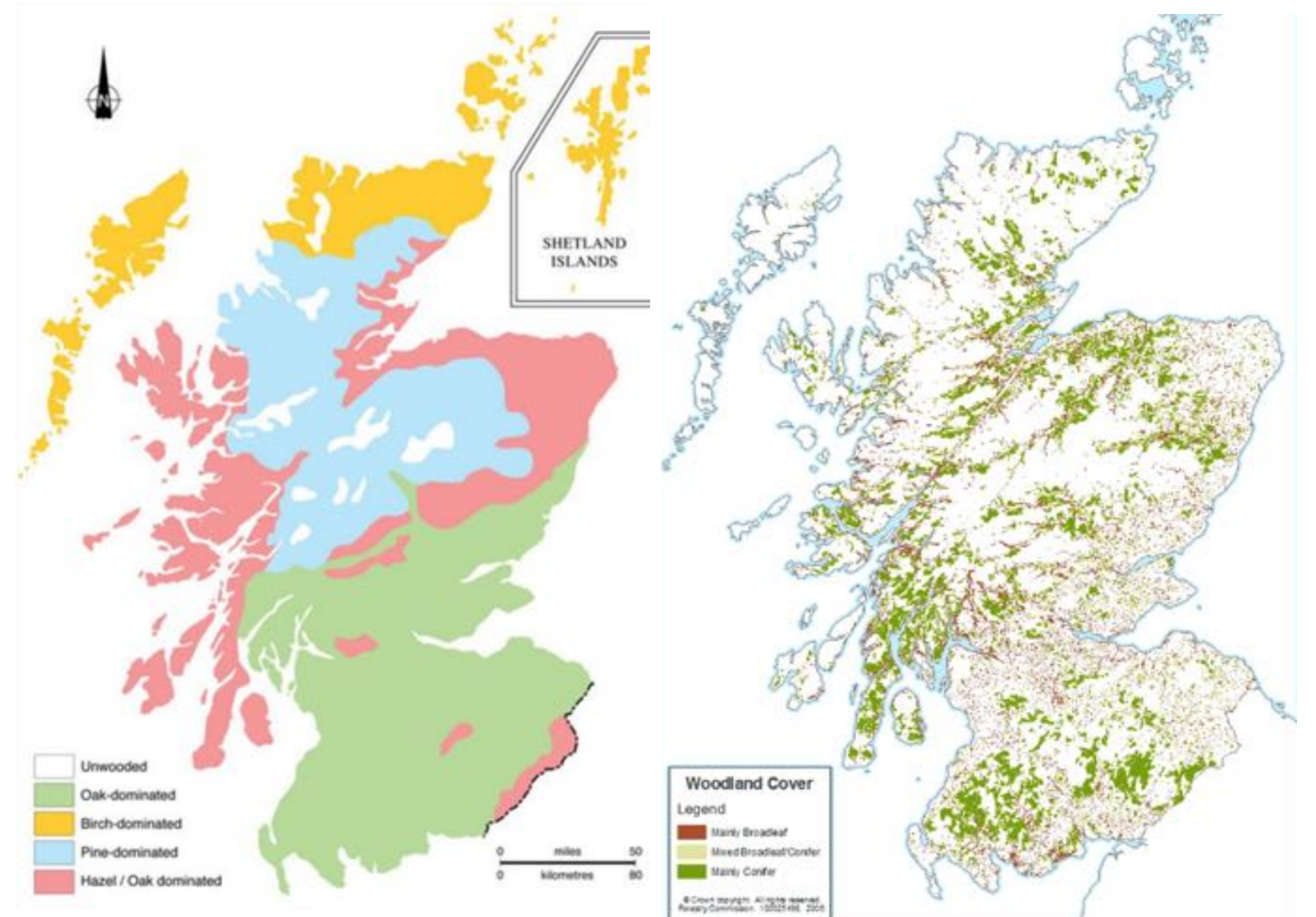
<http://meansealevel.wordpress.com/category/tree-lines/>

<http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/>

<http://epress.anu.edu.au>



Timeline



A timeline of events which affected Scottish forests from which pupils will be working.

What will happen when the ice melts?

In this section of the unit pupils need to draw upon knowledge about how Scottish forests grew after the Ice Age - where the seeds came from, what trees may grow etc.

They will need to think about how seeds that may be lying dormant got there, e.g. wind or animals. They can also apply their knowledge of the Scottish landscape after the Ice Age and apply this to places such as Greenland to see what trees would grow well if introduced artificially.

