

***Thank you, teacher,
for helping your students learn about Wisconsin's forest resource!***

Governor Doyle declared 2004 as the Year of Wisconsin Forestry.

Wisconsin's forests were once decimated from overcutting, but thanks to hard work by people of vision and commitment, today forests cover nearly half the state and the 16 million acres of forest provide recreation, renewable resources and jobs.

We are pleased to bring a special presentation of *The Tree Guy* to your school. We hope you'll help students build on the experience through classroom activities. The activities provided in this packet address Wisconsin Model Academic Standards in Science, Social Studies, Environmental Education and more.

Please let the Forestry Division know about your students' work. If you do [this LEAF activity](#) and one or more of the other suggested activities included here and then send in the feedback form, your class post-surveys and/or the story of your students' Year of Wisconsin Forestry celebration or project, a kit of forestry education resources will be donated to your school library as a thank-you gift. Send evaluation forms and student materials by December 1, 2004 to:

**C. Beimborn Consulting
2647 N. Stowell Avenue
Milwaukee WI 53211**

You might also be interested in having your class make an ornament for the holiday tree at the State Capitol.

In keeping with the Year of Wisconsin Forestry theme, all ornaments must be made from wood, paper or natural materials found in a Wisconsin forest.

Ornament submission deadline is November 19. Details are available online at:

<http://wisconsinforestry.org>

The State of Wisconsin hired its first forester, E. M. Griffith, in 1904.

Forest products and processing industries provide 157,000 Wisconsin jobs.

Forests cover 46% of the land area in Wisconsin.

Shade from trees saves \$650,000 in summer energy costs in Milwaukee alone.

Meet the Trees!

This activity instills awareness for neighborhood trees as students observe trees on or near the school site using their senses and readily available school equipment.

Getting Started

- Ask the students what they know about forests. List their ideas.
- Ask the class if they think their school is in a forest. Prompt students to give reasons for their answers.
- Tell the class that trees in the city can form a forest and that they will explore this urban forest by making observations of nearby trees.

Getting Busy

- Before leaving the classroom, inform students of expectations for learning outdoors. Explain boundaries and rules.
- Show the students the materials that will be available for their use.
- While outdoors, distribute tasks by challenging students to use certain tools or observe particular features of the trees such as texture, shapes, size, etc. Divide the group among several trees if the site allows.
- Direct students to record their observations using words and pictures.
- Students can “meet” several important forest trees of Wisconsin online at www.wisconsinforestry.org

Getting the Point:

- Back inside, allow students to share their observations.
- Involve the group in making a list of things they learned about trees and things they still wonder about.

Materials

Choose age-appropriate materials such as:

- hand lenses
- tape measures
- tree identification keys (found in the *Resources* on the *Wisconsin Forest Tales* CD)
- paper and crayons for rubbings
- paper and pencils for writing and drawing
- an extra adult volunteer, if available

Meet more trees by taking a field trip to a forest or a nature center.

Forests regenerate when seeds drop or blow in from nearby trees, when birds and animals carry seeds in, by the planting of seedlings, by seedlings that sprout from the roots or stumps left after harvest, or by releasing existing seedlings that cannot thrive in the shade of larger trees. Pre-harvest planning and proper harvest techniques ensure that one or more of these methods will succeed.

Wisconsin Forestry Birthday Party

Students will celebrate the centennial of the state forestry program with skits to tell the story of forestry in our state, decorations, songs and tree treats.

Getting Started

- Tell the students that people in Wisconsin have reestablished Wisconsin forests over the past 100 years; that is something to celebrate. Gather student ideas for the forestry celebration. The students may choose to invite others.
- Involve the children in making decorations. Ask each child to cut out a leaf shape and decorate it with drawings or words about things trees give people. Attach the leaves to real or paper branches to make a bulletin board or hallway decoration. Add leaves gathered from outdoors.
- Challenge students to prepare skits about things people did to help the forests in the last 100 years, or prepare to read aloud from the texts provided in the *Wisconsin Forest Tales* CD (upper elementary) or from the book "In Grandpa's Woods" found in your school library (lower elementary) or act out a song from the CD (print lyrics from the CD so students can sing along).

Getting Busy

- Welcome guests, play music from the CD and enjoy snacks.
- Gather the students and guests for a performance of the skit, reading or song prepared by the class.

Getting the Point

- Ask each child to draw or write something special he or she learned about forests in Wisconsin. Use the Post-Survey form enclosed with this packet to assess learning.

NOTE: Your party could also celebrate Smokey Bear's 60th birthday! Teachers can request a free "Pin the Hat on Smokey" game from DNR. More Smokey Bear party ideas online at <http://wisconsinforestry.org>

Materials

- Construction paper for leaf cut-outs
- Scissors
- Sticks or paper cut-outs to resemble a tree trunk and branches
- The *Wisconsin Forest Tales* CD and a CD player
- Tree treats such as:
Dried or fresh apples or other tree fruits, maple candy, maple-sweetened butter or frosting on crackers, ice cream that contains cellulose (from trees!), pretzel *logs*, candy cane *bark*, etc.

Real Characters in Wisconsin Forestry

- **Increase Lapham** convinced the state government to study the problem of overcutting, starting in 1867.
- **E.M. Griffith** was hired as Wisconsin's first state forester in 1904 to begin bringing the forests back.
- **F.G. Wilson** was hired in 1911 to help Griffith replant and manage forests. Griffith and Wilson made plans to help people *use* forests without *using them up*.
- **Aldo Leopold** came to Wisconsin in 1924 to lead the Forest Products Lab in Madison. He is a nationally recognized natural resources conservationist.
- **Today's foresters** continue the work of making sure we use trees in a way that helps people today and in the future. **Learn more** at the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame at: <http://wisconsinforestry.org>

A Tree-mendous Help!

Students will take part in a simple project to help trees.

Getting Started

- Let the class know that although people have worked for 100 years to care for Wisconsin forests, there are still things that people can do.
- Inform children of the project they will do, or involve them in choosing a project. Here are some ideas:

Put wood chip mulch or no-mow plants around the base of a tree to protect it from lawnmower blades.

*Decorate paper bags for a grocery store to inform shoppers of the importance of trees and forests. Visit here for ideas:
<http://www.earthdaybags.org/>*

Make posters to demonstrate that trees are terrific – 5th graders can enter the DNR Arbor Day Poster Contest (see information page about this and the 4th grade essay contest in this packet).

Help monitor or remove invasive species that threaten woodlands like gypsy moths or garlic mustard. Visit www.dnr.wi.gov and select EEK! for information to share with students. Also see the information on the resources page of the CD.

Take part in a tree planting on the school grounds or on a field trip. Plan an Arbor Day ceremony for next April. Ideas online at <http://www.arborday.org/arborday/celebrate.cfm>

Getting Busy

- Gather supplies and give children instructions for taking part in the activity.
- Carry out the class activity to help trees!

Getting the Point

- Ask the children to describe things they can do to help trees near their homes and in the community.
- Let children know that their care for trees will give others something to celebrate in the future.

Materials

- For the mulch project: wood chips from a landscaper or your city division of forestry
- For the no-mow planting project: plants such as hostas, ivy, forget-me-nots, vinca, or other low-growing perennials that tolerate shade and Wisconsin's climate.
- For the poster project: paper and crayons or markers.
- For the bag project: borrowed paper bags from a grocery store, crayons or markers.
- For monitoring invaders or tree planting, contact local organizations such as UW-Extension or your community's parks system to learn how to join local efforts.

Sustainable Forestry

means keeping forests healthy to provide products and enjoyment for people today and in the future. Products from sustainably managed forests in Wisconsin are a good consumer choice.