



Trees, the bountiful resource.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Science

LEARNER OBJECTIVES

- Develop a better understanding of the importance of trees in everyday life.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Trees poster (enclosed)

PREPARATION TIME

5-10 minutes

ACTIVITY TIME

30-40 minutes

Overview

The poster "*Trees, The Bountiful Resource*" can be a useful teaching tool for the elementary classroom. It is designed to help young students develop a better understanding of the importance of trees in their daily lives, and it lends itself to many activities that can make the learning fun.

The Activity

1. The pictures on the left side of the poster are intended to stimulate students to stop and think of all the ways in which wood plays an important role in their daily lives.
 - a. Ask students to write down in five minutes all the products they can think of made from wood.
 - b. Ask them to bring pictures from home of other things made from wood.
 - c. Three of the pictures on the poster show trees. One shows a grove of mostly birch trees, another shows mostly aspen and a third shows mostly spruce. Can your students tell which is which?
2. To ensure that we will continue to have healthy, growing forests in years to come, it is important to encourage everyone to do their part by planting trees.
 - a. Contact a forester to get seedlings for students to plant.
 - b. Invite guest speakers to school to talk about trees and to show the class the tools that planting crews use when they are planting seedlings.
3. The largest tree on the poster is Minnesota's state tree, the Norway Pine. Show students how to tell different species of pine trees by comparing needles.
 - a. Norway pine always has a cluster (or fascicle) of two 5-inch needles; the white pine has five 4-inch needles, but the needles are much finer or lacier. Balsam needles are flat. Spruce needles are round and stiff.

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The following items refer to the corresponding illustrations at the bottom of the poster.

A. Green Treated Posts: Often used as fence posts or supports for patios, they have been treated with a preservative that keeps them from rotting for a very long time.

B. Paper Roll: Paper comes off the paper machine in large rolls weighing several tons. These are slit into smaller rolls for easier handling and are often shipped this way to printers.

C. Boxed Paper Sheets: For shorter print runs, the need is for paper cut into sheets. *(Take the class to visit a printing firm where students can see different kinds of presses at work.)*

D. & E. Pegboard & Hardboard: Sawdust and other wood particles are mixed with certain kinds of glue and then pressed into useful boards like these. Pegboard is often used in workshops and garages as a ready storage space for tools. Hardboard – sometimes called masonite – has a hard, smooth surface and is sometimes used to make furniture and paneling.



F. Oriented Strand Board (OSB): Wood flakes, or strands, are coated with glue, oriented in layers and pressed into boards that are commonly used as a base for flooring or siding in home construction.

G. Oak & Birch Trim: Oak is often used for cabinets, furniture, doors and baseboards because of its beautiful grain. Birch is light in color and is sometimes used as paneling for kitchen cabinets.

H. Veneer Board/Finishing Pine: Sometimes a thin layer of expensive, beautifully grained wood is glued over a less expensive board.

I. Pine 2x4s: Commonly used as framing for homes, barns and other noncommercial structures.

J. Cedar Posts: Often used for decorative fencing, these posts are naturally resistant to rotting and will last for many years.

K. Wildlife: The forest provides habitat for wildlife. Some species, like woodpeckers, prefer older, mature trees from which they can dig grubs and insects. Deer, however, like to browse on young saplings.