

America's Stately Trees

Subjects: Biology, History, Social Studies

Objective(s): Students will identify and research various state trees across the country.

Material Needs:

Teacher reference list: "America's Stately Trees" (A list of all 50 state trees)

Activity/Instructions:

1. Remind the students that every state in America has an officially designated "state tree" that is felt to somehow represent that state. (For example, Indiana's state tree is the Tulip Poplar. It was chosen because it was commonly used by Native Americans for dugout canoes and early settlers for building log cabins, which gives the tree a historical significance within the state.) Some trees are so popular that several states have chosen the same one.
2. Explain to the students that they will be researching and reporting on different state trees across the country.
3. Depending on the size of the class, have each student sign up for (or be assigned) either one or two states to research. Extra states might be offered as extra credit projects.
4. Findings can be presented to the class as oral reports, written reports, or as a display. Student reports should include information on how to identify each tree (possibly with illustrations), where it grows (soil, climate, moisture level, etc.), and why they were chosen as state trees.
5. One additional option for this activity is to have each student attach a drawing/photo of their tree(s) within the appropriate state's borders on a large United States wall map. This way they can see how different types of trees are distributed throughout the country. (i.e. You will find different species growing in Maine than in Arizona.)

AMERICA'S STATE TREES

<u>STATE</u>	<u>STATE TREE</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>
Alabama	Southern Longleaf Pine	<i>Pinus palustris</i>
Alaska	Sitka Spruce	<i>Picea sitchensis</i>
Arizona	Palo Verde	<i>Parkinsonia florida</i>
Arkansas	Loblolly Pine	<i>Pinus taeda</i>
California (2)	California Redwood	<i>Sequoia giganteum</i> <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>
Colorado	Colorado Blue Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i>
Connecticut	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Delaware	American Holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>
Florida	Sabal Palm	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>
Georgia	Live Oak	<i>Quercus virginiana</i>
Hawaii	Kukui (Candlenut)	<i>Aleurites moluccana</i>
Idaho	Western White Pine	<i>Pinus monticola pinaceae</i>
Illinois	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Indiana	Tuliptree (Tulip Poplar)	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Iowa	Bur Oak	<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>
Kansas	Eastern Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
Kentucky	Tuliptree (Tulip Poplar)	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Louisiana	Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
Maine	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Maryland	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Massachusetts	American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
Michigan	Eastern White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Minnesota	Red Pine	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
Mississippi	Southern Magnolia	<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>
Missouri	Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
Montana	Ponderosa Pine	<i>Pinus ponderosa</i>
Nebraska	Eastern Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides</i>
Nevada (2)	Single Leaf Pinon	<i>Pinus monophylla</i>
	Bristlecone Pine	<i>Pinus aristata</i>
New Hampshire	Paper Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
New Jersey	Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
New Mexico	Pinyon	<i>Pinus edulis</i>
New York	Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>

AMERICA'S STATE TREES (Cont.)

<u>STATE</u>	<u>STATE TREE</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>
North Carolina	Longleaf Pine	<i>Pinus palustris</i>
North Dakota	American Elm	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
Ohio	Ohio Buckeye	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>
Oklahoma	Eastern Redbud	<i>Cercis canadensis</i>
Oregon	Douglas Fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
Pennsylvania	Eastern Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
Rhode Island	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
South Carolina	Sabal Palm	<i>Sabal palmetto</i>
South Dakota	White Spruce	<i>Picea glauca</i>
Tennessee	Tuliptree (Tulip Poplar)	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
Texas	Pecan	<i>Carya illinoensis</i>
Utah	Blue Spruce	<i>Picea pungens</i>
Vermont	Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Virginia	Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>
Washington	Western Hemlock	<i>Tsuga heterophylla</i>
West Virginia	Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Wisconsin	Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
Wyoming	Plains Cottonwood	<i>Populus deltoides monilifera</i>