

Tree Safari

Subjects: Science, Language Arts, Mathematics

Objective: Students will become more aware of the importance of trees in their lives

Material Needs:

- Pencils
- “Tree Safari Research Log” handout
- “Products that Come from Trees” handout
- “This Was Made From A Tree?” handout

Activity/Instruction:

1. Introduce this activity by reminding the students that not only do trees provide us with shade, oxygen, and habitat for wildlife; they also provide us with many of the products we see and use daily.
2. Give a few examples of products that come from trees. (Give some obvious examples such as paper, toilet paper, pencils, chairs, etc., PLUS examples from either or both handouts.)
3. Have the students guess what other items in the classroom or school are made from wood.
4. Distribute the student handout “Tree Safari Research Log.” (This activity can be done individually or in small teams.)
5. Explain to the students that they will be going on a “tree safari” within the classroom/school, looking for items made from trees. They will use their handouts to record their discoveries. (You can limit this activity to 15 minutes in the classroom [or different sections of the school] or allow the students to “safari” for an entire day or week.)
6. When the allotted “safari” time is over, compile a master list of all the tree products. There may be some discussion as to whether some items really come from trees.
7. If time allows, you may want to let the students go on a “tree safari” at their homes or other locations.
8. Wrap-up this activity by stressing the importance of trees. They are important as a renewable resource that provides us with many useful products.

Examples of Products that Come from Trees



Species:

Some of Its Uses and Products:

Ash	Ball bats, handles, oars, hockey sticks, boxes, crates, furniture, kitchen cabinets
Aspen	Boxes, crates, logs for log cabins, matches
Basswood	Pulpwood, boxes and crates, logs for log cabins, matches
Beech	Boxes, baskets, bee hives, Venetian blinds, cheese boxes, kitchen cabinets, drawing boards, artificial limbs
Birch	Toys, clothespins, salad forks & spoons, spools, flooring, baskets, boxes, crates, handles
Eastern Red Cedar	Fence posts, chests, wardrobes, closet linings, scientific instruments
Black Cherry	Furniture, cabinets, interior wall trim, printers' blocks
Cottonwood	Pulpwood (paper), boxes, crates, tubs & pails for food products, core-stock in plywood
Dogwood	Shuttles for textile weaving, spools, bobbin heads, small pulleys, mallet heads, machinery bearings, jewelers' blocks, fuel wood
American Elm	Barrel staves & hoops, baskets, crates, round cheese boxes, bent furniture pieces, paneling
Red Elm	Barrel staves & hoops, baskets, crates, round cheese boxes, fencing, boats
Black Gum	Boxes, crates, baskets, crossties, factory floors, furniture, pulpwood (paper)
Sweet Gum	Plywood, furniture, crossties, crates, boxes, baskets, pulpwood (paper)
Hackberry	Boxes, crates, furniture, caskets
Hickory	Tool handles, ball bats, ladder rounds (steps), fuel for meat smoking, dowel pins
Black Locust	Fence posts, telephone poles, mine timbers, insulator pins, railroad ties, piling, fuel wood
Hard Maples	Flooring for basketball courts/dance halls/factories/homes, bowling alleys & bowling pins, croquet mallets & balls, pool cue sticks, handles, piano frames, boxes
Soft Maples	Toys, pulpwood (paper), boxes, baskets, crating
Mulberry	Fence posts, fuel, boat building
White Oak Group	Flooring, veneer, ship & boat building, whiskey & vinegar barrels, railroad ties, furniture, railroad cars, caskets, mine timbers, posts, crates
Red Oak Group	Flooring, veneer, furniture, railroad cars, caskets
Osage Orange	Fence posts, archery bows, (once used exclusively for wagon wheel rims)
Persimmon	Golf club heads, shuttles, spools, mallet heads, small tool handles
Sassafras	Gates, fence boards & posts, truck racks, wagon beds, boat oars, interior trim, cabinets
Sycamore	Fruit & vegetable baskets, berry boxes, butchers' blocks, furniture, interior trim, flour & sugar barrels, flooring, pulpwood (paper)
Tuliptree	Furniture, interior finish, siding, plywood core stock, hat blocks
Black Walnut	Veneer, gun stocks, chairs, tables, bedroom suites, office furniture, radio, television & sewing machine cabinets, interior trim
White Walnut	Furniture & cabinetwork, instrument cases, interior trim & paneling, ladder rails
Willow	Shipping boxes, baskets, strawberry boxes, kitchen cabinets, artificial limbs, polo balls, caskets, charcoal, pulpwood (paper)

This Was Made From A Tree?



Item/Product

Which Tree?

Matches	Aspen, Basswood
Cheese Boxes	Beech, Elm
Oars	Ash
Clothespins	Birch
Artificial Limbs	Beech, Willow
Bee Supplies	Beech
Salad Forks/Spoons	Birch
Thread Spools	Birch
Guns	Black Walnut (gun stocks)
Scientific Instruments	Eastern Red Cedar
Food Product Containers	Cottonwood, Sycamore
Textile Weaving Machinery	Dogwood (shuttles)
Bobbin Heads	Dogwood
Small Pulleys	Dogwood
Machinery Bearings	Dogwood
Barrel Staves & Hoops	American Elm
Caskets	Hackberry, Red oaks, White Oaks, Willow
Boat Trim Work	Red Oaks, Sycamore
Barrels for Liquid Goods	White Oaks
Bowling Pins	Hard Maples
Bug Repellant	Eastern Red Cedar (keeps away moths)
Archery Bows	Osage orange
Golf Clubs	Persimmon (club heads)
Venetian Blinds	Beech
Charcoal	Willow
Asprin	Willow (the precursor to aspirin is salacin, which is found in this tree)
Food	Nuts & berries from many tree species



