

Careers Exploration

NUTSHELL

In this lesson, students become aware of eight careers that are forestry-related by reading descriptions of them and playing Charades.

ENDURING UNDERSTANDING

- Forest research and management involves professionals with backgrounds in many fields, including forestry, biology, wildlife, soils, water, land management, urban planning, engineering, sociology, geography, technology, environmental education, and chemistry.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- What careers relate to forestry?

OBJECTIVE

Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Give examples of forestry-related careers and discuss their interest in a similar career.

SUBJECT AREA

Social Studies

LESSON/ACTIVITY TIME

Total Lesson Time: 80 minutes

- Introduction20 minutes
- Activity30 minutes
- Conclusion30 minutes

TEACHING SITE

Classroom

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

There is a wide array of forestry-related careers. They range from direct care of trees to landscape planning to the processing and production of lumber and products. One of the fastest growing specialty areas in forestry is urban forestry, where people are involved in caring for trees in urban and suburban areas. In Wisconsin, the forest products industry is the second largest industry in the state (agriculture is the first). There are approximately 1,200 forest product companies that employ 64,000 people in Wisconsin.

Careers in forestry-related fields generally require some type of higher education due to the level of science and technology used. Education may include an advanced degree and/or technical training. Well-developed people skills are also important for those in forestry-related careers. Communication with the public and professionals in other natural resource fields is important when managing resources.

Helping students to become aware of natural resource careers, such as those in forestry, gives them options for the future. Forestry-related jobs are important to the social, economic, and environmental health of our state.

**“Anyone who thinks
fallen leaves are dead
has never watched them dancing
on a windy day.”**

★ Shira Tamir ★

VOCABULARY TERMS

Associate Director, Land Trust: A person who works to protect land, plants, and animals for the future.

Ecologist: A person who studies how forest parts work together and how humans fit in.

Executive Director, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association: A person who assists members of WWOA to help them meet their goals.

Forest Pathologist: A person who diagnoses and determines treatment for forest pests such as insects, disease, and weather damage.

Landscaper: A person who designs landscapes. This includes planning what trees and shrubs to plant and where to plant them.


Nursery Manager: A person who is in charge of planting many tree seeds and helping them grow.

Park Superintendent: A person who manages a park and people who use it.

Wildlife Biologist: A person who researches wildlife and their habitats and takes action to improve those habitats.

MATERIALS LIST

For Every 6 Students

- Set of Student Page  1, **Charades Cards**
- Two envelopes labeled “A” and “B” with half of the **Charades Cards** cut apart

For the Class

- Several sets of the Career Profiles from the unit to pass around the room.
 - Jim, Tree Nursery Manager (page 24)
 - Alan, Ecologist (page 42)
 - Kyoko, Forest Pest Specialist (page 59)
 - Marty, Wildlife Biologist (page 72)
 - Jim, Park Superintendent (page 84)
 - Tom, Landscaper (page 95)
 - Nancy, Executive Director, WWOA (page 130)
 - Terrie, Associate Director, Door County Land Trust (page 144)

**“Between every two pines
is a doorway to a new world.”**

★ John Muir ★

**“Acts of creation are ordinarily reserved for gods and poets,
but humbler folk may circumvent this restriction if they know how.
To plant a pine, for example, one need be neither god nor poet;
one need only own a shovel.”**

★ Aldo Leopold ★

PROCEDURE

Introduction - Career Profiles

Tell students that there are many careers that deal with Wisconsin’s forests. Tell them they are going to read about a few of those careers. Pass out copies of the career profiles that are included with each classroom lesson. Allow students time to read the profiles.

Activity - Charades

1. There are two options for the Charades activity. Either collect the career profiles, or allow the students to keep them to refer to when they are guessing careers. You may also write the career names on the board for quick reference. Divide students into teams of three or four. Be sure you have an even number of total teams. Pair each team with another team. Tell the students that they will now play Charades.
 - Each team will take turns acting out the cards they draw from an envelope.
 - Each card has the career name they will act out and a few key words.
 - The team member chosen to act out the card is given two minutes to act it out.
 - If their teammates guess the correct answer in that time, they get two points. If their team doesn’t guess it but the opposing team does, the opposing team gets one point.

2. Hand out the envelopes with the Charades Cards in them. One team in the pair should have “A” and the other “B.” Have someone from the first team reach in the envelope and pull out a card. After reading it, the person should act it out for the team.
3. After each team has gone through all of the cards in their envelopes, they have the opportunity to act out more forestry-related careers they think of. The team member who has the idea for a career to act out must write it down on a piece of paper and show it to the other team before beginning to act it out. If their team guesses correctly, they get two points. If they don’t get the answer in two minutes, no points are awarded.

Conclusion - Writing About Careers

Assign students, either individually or in small groups, to create a short (30 seconds or less) rap, poem, or song about one of the careers. They should include things like the duties of the job, people the job serves, training and education required for the job, and why it would be a good or bad job for the student. Have the students perform what they created for the class.

NOTES

CHARADES CARDS

Landscaper

- Designs landscapes
- Works in small yards and in large forests

Ecologist

- Studies plants and animals
- Teaches others

Tree Nursery Manager

- Plant seeds
- Supervises people who plant, dig, and ship seedlings

Forest Pest Specialist

- Knows insects
- Identifies tree disease

Wildlife Biologist

- Improves animal habitat
- Writes reports

Park Superintendent

- Helps campers
- Supervises employees

Executive Director, WWOA

- Educates landowners
- Plans annual meeting

Associate Director, Door County Land Trust

- Inventories plants and animals
- Talks to people about what they can do with their land