

Would Wood Be Needed for My Job?

Forests are an integral part of Wisconsin's economy. Not only do we depend on them for thousands of products, we also depend on them for thousands of jobs.

Getting Ready

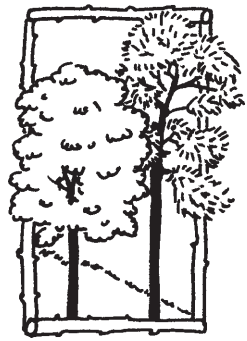
1. Either write the following paragraph on the board or put it on a transparency:

"Forest industries are the largest manufacturing employment sector in 28 Wisconsin counties, second in 9 counties, and third in 5 counties. In addition to the 97,000+ direct employees, another 200,000 jobs are dependent on the forest products industry."

From *A Look at Wisconsin's Forests* published by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry

Doing the Activity

1. Read the quote from the brochure about state employment or ask the students to read the quote. Ask the students what types of jobs might be related to the forest industry.
2. Have students brainstorm a list of jobs that are related to the forest industry in their community. To assist with this, students can use employment ads and/or the yellow pages to find local jobs that are dependent on forests, such as a local siding company that sells cedar siding or the copy store that prints invitations and newsletters. The following is a suggested list of headings from the yellow pages:
 - books
 - cards
 - construction
 - Christmas trees
 - consulting foresters
 - printers
 - antiques
 - log homes
 - arboretums
 - tree services
 - landscapers
 - boats/docks
 - furniture
 - cardboard & packaging
 - paper
 - and many more!



Method

Students search for forest-related jobs in their community.

Key Concepts

The managing, harvesting, processing, transporting, and marketing of forests and forest products provide employment for many people and economic benefits to local and regional economies.

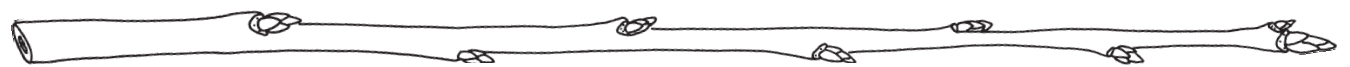
Objectives

- realize the impact forests have on employment
- view the value of forests as they relate to statewide employment figures
- realize there are diverse community jobs that are dependent on the forest industry

Subjects & WI Academic Standards

Science:
B.4, C.4, E.4, G.4
C.8, E.8, G.8

Social Studies:
D.4, D.8



Standards cont.

English/Language Arts:
A.4, B.4, C.4, D.4, F.4
A.8, B.8, C.8, D.8, F.8

Environmental Education:
A.4, B.4
A.8, B.8

Materials

- newspaper
employment ads and/
or yellow pages from
the telephone book for
each group of 3
students

Preparation

Time

15 minutes

Activity Time

1 50-minute class period

Setting

classroom

3. You may want to have students work in groups of three, assigning each person a task such as reader, writer, and reporter as they list names of local services and businesses that are dependent on the forest industry.
4. Have the groups report back during group discussion.

Assessing Student Understanding

Have students write descriptions of the jobs they found most interesting and how they were related to the forest industry. Prepare the report for others.



Reprinted with permission from *Wisconsin's Millennium Tree: Sustainable Forestry Activities For Elementary School Students* © 1999. The complete activity guide can be downloaded from DNR's EEK! website (www.dnr.state.wi.us/EEK/).

Extending the Learning

Take it a Step Farther

Some industries and their associated jobs are directly connected to the forest. Sawmills, veneer manufacturers, and paper mills employ forest managers, lumberjacks, and papermakers. These are primary vendors, depending directly on the forest. Other industries are secondary users of the forest. These include cabinet makers, pallet companies, and container factories. Visit the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website (www.dnr.state.wi.us) and follow these links: Natural Resources→Forestry→Uses of Wisconsin Forests→Forest Products→Primary Wood Vendors and Secondary Wood Vendors. The site lists businesses from all over the state by name, number of employees, products, and materials. You can select your city, county, or zip code and find out both the primary and secondary vendors. Cool!

Check out Careers

These activities will help your students learn about forestry-related careers:

- The **Project Learning Tree** activity "Who Works in this Forest?" invites students to read about and discuss six careers related directly to forestry and begin to examine other occupations that are indirectly related to forests.
- The **Paper Makes Wisconsin Great!** activity "What Should I Be? What About a Papermaker?" encourages students to

investigate career possibilities in the papermaking industry by creating a poster about a specific career.

- ✦ The **Wisconsin's Millennium Tree** activity "So You Want to Be a Forester?" gives suggestions on how to invite a forester into your classroom to discuss his/her career.

Find Out About a Forest Ranger's Job

Read ***A Day in the Life of a Forest Ranger*** by David Paige. This story is about a forest ranger from Nicolet National Forest—right here in Wisconsin! Grades 3 - 5.

Dye Some Wool Yarn

You don't have to be a logger or forester to depend on forests in your profession. Writers, singers, and artists look to the forest for inspiration and raw materials!

Tree bark, roots, leaves, and nuts can dye wool yarn a variety of natural shades. The easiest and most foolproof dye material is also the messiest. Walnut husks dye yarn, cloth, fingers, and clothes a beautiful dark brown. Collect husks after they have turned brown. Place in water and boil gently for several hours. Remove from heat. Place wet wool yarn into the dyebath. Check every 10 minutes or so until the yarn is a little darker than you wish (some color will wash out). Rinse the wool under running water until the water is clear. Use the wool in natural weavings. Please note: Natural dyeing is an art. This is a very crude way to show how colors from nature can dye wool. However, it is effective as a classroom demonstration when formulas, chemical reactions, and precise measurements are really not necessary. **NatureWatch** by Adrienne Katz includes some more advanced, yet still relatively simple, directions for natural dyeing.

Finding Out More!

A Look at Wisconsin's Forests produced by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This resource should be in your packet. If it is missing, you can order publication PUB-FR-122 from your local WDNR Forester.

Forestry Career Websites

Society of American Foresters
www.safnet.org/about/careers.htm

Wisconsin Paper Council
www.wipapercouncil.org/funfacts.htm

