

2013 National Forest Week

September 22 to 28, 2013

Theme “The Greenest Work Force”

The theme of this year’s National Forest Week is “The Greenest Work Force”. It is intended to highlight the vital work of forest professionals and practitioners and to recognize them as “true greenies” who are involved in managing all aspects of the forest.

This year’s theme ties into Careers related to the forest industry and Forest Products.

Here are some suggestions for incorporating this theme into lesson plans.

Elementary School

Overview:

Over 67% of BC is covered in forests.

Definition of a forest – a forest is a plant community, mostly made up of trees and other plants growing alongside an animal community.

The forest is a place to have fun and learn and explore. It is full of interesting things like trees, plants, animals, fish and bugs. The main part of a forest is trees. Trees provide oxygen, shelter and shade. They also provide food for animals and humans. Many of the products we use every day are made from trees like lumber, toilet paper, toothpaste, cake mix, medicine, batteries and more. When trees are harvested (cut down) to be used by humans, more trees are planted in their place. This allows us to make forest products and grow more trees for the future.

BC’s forestry professionals and practitioners make up the team that care for the forests and keep them healthy and growing.

1. Have students brain storm some of the jobs or work done in the forest.

- Forester/Forest technician
- Tree planter
- Biologist
- Wildlife Conservation Officer
- Forest manager (i.e. woodlot licensee, woodlot owner)
- Logger
- Park Manager
- Road builder

The people who chose these jobs did so because they are interested in the forest, care about the forest and like to work in the forest. It is their work place, like a teacher's classroom or someone's office. They are concerned with protecting it as without trees and a healthy forest, they wouldn't be able to do their job.

BC's forestry professionals make plans to care for the forests and everything in them.

They:

- build roads,
- measure trees,
- fight forest fires,
- figure out where and how many trees can be cut for use as forest products,
- determine the best way to replant every tree that is cut down,
- supervise tree growth;
- and much more.

Forestry professionals spend many years learning about and working in the forest so that they become good guardians (keepers) of the forests.

Part of looking after the forest means cutting down trees - mature trees, coming to the end of their healthy life, maybe diseased trees or trees attacked by pests such as the Mountain Pine Beetle. Once harvested a new healthy forest will be re-established which means the forest is sustainable (can live forever when properly managed).

2. Think about a typical day for a forest professional working in the forest and what are some examples of things they might do to ensure the forest and its environment are looked after?

Suggestions

- Tree planter plants trees to re-establish a forest
 - Forester counts young trees that have been planted after logging to ensure the forest is being re-established
 - Logger harvests trees which are sick from disease (Root Rot) or pests (Mountain Pine Beetle)
 - Logger leaves a dead tree, called a snag, standing for birds such as wood peckers to make nests/homes
 - Forester plans where trees can be cut down and where trees and the forest must remain as they do naturally such as next to a stream to ensure the water and habitat next to it are protected
 - Biologist looks at where the mule deer live in the winter and ensure there is adequate feed for them.
 - Forest Manager checks on new seedlings to make sure they are growing and healthy.
3. Have students brainstorm some of the products made by the forest industry?
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 4. Forest products are green/friendly on the environment – lumber to build houses is a more environmentally friendly choice than building with cement and steel. Why?
 - Forest products are green and environmentally acceptable
 - Forest products are made from a renewable resource –TREES – if sustainably managed.
 5. In BC our forests are sustainably managed. It is law to re-plant trees if they have been cut down. 7 billion trees were planted in BC in March 2013.

Secondary School

Overview:

Over 67% of BC is covered in forests. Because of this, BC has developed a strong forest sector offering a wide range of jobs which are exciting and challenging.

1. Why is forestry Canada's/BC's Greenest Workforce?

People who work in the forest rely on the forest being healthy and green. Without trees, and the ecosystems in which the forests grow there would be no forest sector. They recognize that decisions made about the long-term sustainable management of forest resources can have far-reaching impacts. BC's forestry professionals and practitioners make a positive contribution to the environment by working in the forest sector.

2. There are a variety of careers associated, directly and indirectly, with the management and use of forest resources. What careers can you think of that are directly or indirectly related to the forest sector?

Suggestions:

- Cutting, moving and processing forest products
 - Logger
 - Logging Truck Driver
 - Heavy Equipment Operator
 - Mill Wright
 - Chemical Engineer
 - Electrical Engineer
 - Forestry Professional
 - Industrial Engineer
 - Mechanical Engineer
 - Supervisor, Forest Products Processing
 - Supervisor, Logging and Forestry
 - Control Systems Specialist
 - Distributed Control System Technician
 - Heavy-Duty Mechanic
 - Industrial Electrician
 - Industrial Instrument Technician
 - Machinist
 - Maintenance Planner
 - Millwright and Industrial Mechanic
 - Power Steam Engineer
 - Process Engineer
 - Sawfiler
 - Steamfitter / Pipefitter

- Vibration Analyst
 - Welder
 - Jobs in planning and managing the forests sustainably
 - Foresters
 - Biologists
 - GIS technologists
 - Environmental Supervisor
 - Forestry Technician
 - Silviculturalists
 - Researchers (hydrology, soils, entomology, land use planning, ecology, economics)
 - Support services
 - Airplane pilot who helps control the spruce budworm or put out fires
 - Fire fighter
 - Nursery Manager or person who plants seeds to produce new trees.
 - Careers that relate to other forest values
 - Conservation Officer who enforces regulations to protect wildlife
 - Park Superintendent who manages trails for hikers
 - Outfitter who leads anglers into a wilderness area.
 - Small forest-based industries
 - Trapping
 - Wild crafting (i.e. wreathes, woven baskets)
 - Maple syrup
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3. Canada's forest industry is committed to innovation and making green, renewable biomaterials. There are more than 5,000 products produced from wood. New products are being developed by the Canadian forest products industry. Examples include:

- renewable bio-fuels
- new building products
- green bio-plastics
- bio-chemicals that can be used to produce bio-pharmaceuticals, biodegradable plastics, personal care products and industrial chemicals
- bulletproof vests
- car parts (Ford is using wood fibre to reduce its reliance on fibreglass and petroleum)
- airplane wings