

Forest 1

TREES IN OUR COMMUNITY

Grades 1–3

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the lesson students will...

- Be able to explain why trees are important to people
- Describe what kinds of trees grow in their community and how people use these trees
- Identify several types of trees that grow in their community

MATERIALS

- Elder
- Paper
- Colored pencils
- Scissors, tape, glue

TIME

- 5 minutes introduction
- 20 minutes walking in the woods
- 15 minutes drawing pictures
- 20 minutes putting trees together as a forest and discussing what they learned

TOTAL 1 hour

PROCEDURE

01 Introduction

Discussion

- What do we know about the trees are around our homes and communities?

02 Knowledge Sharing

Elder Walk

- Invite an Elder take the students on a short walk in the forest
- Identify the main types of trees in the area
- Talk about the different kinds of trees and what they do for people i.e. provide food, shade, medicine, firewood
- Look at how the trees provide homes for birds and animals
- Provide time for students to ask questions to the Elder

Questions about Trees

- What is the name of this tree in Spanish and in Miskito?
- What does it look like? (leaves, bark, how tall is it, etc.) How can you identify this tree?
- What does it produce that people use? (fruit, medicine, firewood, etc.)

03 Student Activity

Individual Activity

- Age 5: draw pictures of the trees and what they give to people
- Age 6: draw pictures and write one sentence for each picture
- Age 7: draw pictures and write two sentences per picture
- Age 8: draw pictures and write a paragraph for each picture

Group Activity

- Each student draws and colours one of the trees that they saw during the walk
- The trees are cut out and glued to a large piece of paper on the wall to create a forest

04 Conclusion

Sharing Circle

In small groups (3–4 students), have students share their drawings with their peers. As a full class, talk about the importance of trees for the community.



Forest 2

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLANT MEDICINE

Grades 1–6

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the lesson students will...

- Understand of the importance of medicinal plants in their region
- Have an in-depth knowledge of the characteristics and uses of one medicinal plant in particular their region
- Be aware of the threats of climate change to medicinal plants

SUMMARY OF LESSON

- Students will create a collection of information cards that visually depict the spirit and beauty of the medicinal plants from their region
- Each student will choose a plant and gather information through research about where it grows, how it's used
- Include any traditional and personal stories or songs that are connected to your plant and its environment
- Explain how these plants are threatened by climate change and deforestation and the importance of protecting them

MATERIALS

- Camera or photos of indigenous plants/online RACHEL images
- Various art materials (found objects, things from the forests, paint, crayons, pencils, etc. glue, scissors)
- Card stock 8 1/2 x 11
- RACHEL for research

PROCEDURE

1. **Introduction:** Share a traditional, oral story about the creation of a plant (Ojibwe Story: The Legend of the Lady Slipper). Share information about the lady slipper, it's medicinal properties, and show a photo
2. Students choose a plant from their region (think about plants you are familiar with, curious about, know a story about . . .)
3. Research your plant (use the objectives above to guide your research. show an exemplar using the lady slipper)
4. After initial research is completed, take a walk in the forest with an elder who can talk about the plants and the forest and how climate change and deforestation can be impacting the land
5. During the walk, students will take a photo of their plant
6. Return to class, and begin creating their information cards
7. When finished students will share their work and teach their classmates

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS FOR RESEARCH

- How is climate change impacting the traditional growth of medicinal plants in BOSAWAS?
- What kinds of actions are affecting the growth of these plants?
- Why is it important to preserve our forests? How is our land connected to who we are and our way of life?
- What do you have that can't be bought with any amount of money? How do you protect this precious thing or resource?

DIFFERENTIATING FOR INSTRUCTION

- Content requirements in the writing may be redacted to specific questions for younger students (example: Name your plant, tell where it grows, What are its uses, include a drawing)

EXTENSION IDEAS

- Create an Art Installation in the community
- Make these into prints

Forest 3

THE IMPORTANCE OF FORESTS FOR THE PLANET

Related to the Science Curriculum
Grades 4–6

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the lesson students will...

- Be able to explain why forests are important to the planet
- Describe what kinds of trees grow in their community and how trees are part of the ecosystem
- Identify several types of trees that grow in their community

MATERIALS

- RACHELS or Science textbooks
- Paper – Large Sheets
- Crayons and colored pencils
- Scissors and tape or glue

TIME

- 15 minutes introduction
- 1–hour research in groups
- 45 minutes class sharing

TOTAL 2 hours

PROCEDURE

01 Introduction

- What do we know about how trees and forests are part of the ecosystem?
- Leaves and roots provide important functions
- Cutting down forests can have negative affects

02 Student Research and Presentations

Divide students into small groups – each group researches one of the following aspects of forests:

- Trees and leave and photosynthesis – carbon dioxide and cleaning the air
- Tree roots – holding soil in place and water in the ground
- Canopies of the Rain Forest – what are the layers in a rainforest and what happens in each one
- Identify and describe the characteristics of the 5 main types of trees in their community or region

Students research information on RACHEL or in textbooks, or consult with the Forest Rangers and Elders.

03 Student Activity

Group Activity

- Groups prepare a poster explaining what they learned
- Each Group shares a short presentation to the class with the information they learned and showing on their poster
- Posters are hung on the walls of the classroom
- Students ask each other questions to make sure they understand each other's work

04 Conclusion

Sharing Circle

As a full class, talk about the importance of forests for the community and the planet.



Forest 4

IMPACTS OF DEFORESTATION

Related to the Science Curriculum
Grades 4–6

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of the lesson students will...

- Be able to explain what deforestation is
- Describe three negative impacts of deforestation
- Describe two reasons for deforestation in their region
- Identify at least three ways to prevent deforestation

MATERIALS

- Invite Forest Rangers
- RACHELS or Science textbooks
- MAPEO – maps of deforestation
- Paper – Large Sheets
- Crayons and colored pencils
- Scissors and tape or glue



TIME

- 10 minutes introduction
- 1–hour research in groups
- 1–hour walk and discussion with Forest Rangers or MAPEO technicians
- 1 hour–prepare presentations for the class
- 50 minutes class sharing

TOTAL 4 hours
(Can be done over 2 days)

PROCEDURE

01 Introduction

- What do we know about deforestation in BOSAWAS?
- Causes, impacts, solutions

02 Knowledge Sharing

- Invite Forest Rangers to share information about deforestation in the community or region; go for a walk together to view the impacts of deforestation;
- Invite technicians working on MAPEO to present information and maps of deforestation in the community and BOSAWAS in general

03 Student Activity

Divide students into small groups – each group researches answers to the following aspects of forests:

- Trees and leave and photosynthesis – carbon dioxide and cleaning the air
- Tree roots – holding soil in place and water in the ground
- Canopies of the Rain Forest – what are the layers in a rainforest and what happens in each one
- Identify and describe the characteristics of the 5 main types of trees in their community or region

Students research information on RACHEL or in textbooks, or consult with the Forest Rangers and Elders.

04 Conclusion

Sharing Circle

As a full class, talk about the importance of forests for the community and the planet.