

One, Two, Tree

OBJECTIVE: To illustrate the importance of forests to the Earth.

MATERIALS: HANDOUTS: Can't see the Forest For the Trees (A37), Things Made From Trees (A38), More Trees Please (A39)

VOCABULARY: reduce, reuse, recycle, packaging, oxygen

BACKGROUND:

Trees do more for the Earth than supply shade and look nice. Forests provide us with the oxygen we breathe while removing the carbon dioxide we exhale. An uncountable number of animals and insects call the Earth's trees and forests home.

The Saturday edition of the Toronto Star is, on average, 200 pages. It requires 8,330 trees to make the 750,000 copies of the paper printed each weekend. While some paper products are necessary, a lot of the paper we consume is the result of excess packaging or wasteful habits. Forests need time to replenish themselves. We must balance our needs with those of the trees and animals living in the forests.

PROCEDURE:

1. Ask the class how many of them have been for a walk in the woods. Ask them to think about all of the things that depend on the forest to live. Use the HANDOUT: Can't See the Forest For the Trees (A37) to stimulate their thinking.
2. Have the children think of all the things they use each day that are made from trees. Have them fill in their ideas on the HANDOUT: Things Made From Trees (A38). Discuss how to reduce the amounts they use.
3. Now have the class do the math problems on HANDOUT: More Trees Please (A39).

EXTENSION:

1. Ask the class to think of ways to save trees (i.e. writing on both sides of the paper, avoid excess packaging, recycle newspaper).
2. Inform the class that trees are one of many natural resources. Ask them to think of other resources.
3. Start a tree planting campaign.