

Overview of Activities and Materials in the Tree Trunk

1) Forest Sense – grades K-12

Use the senses to gather information about the forest in this quiet writing (or drawing) activity.

-- *Clipboard, paper, and pencil for each student

2) ID That Tree – grades 4-12

Use a scientific key to identify common trees of the State Forest.

-- Single-page keys to common trees of the State Forest, for younger students.

-- Laminated photo cards of the trees in key, for younger students

-- Tree ID books for older students

3) A Tree for Me – grades K-5

Get closely acquainted with a single tree by making detailed observations.

-- *Clipboards, pencils, worksheets for grades 2-5 students /plain paper for K-1 students

-- Peeled crayons

4) Plots and Plans – grades 6-12

Collect biotic and abiotic data from a 1/10 acre forest plot, and make management recommendations for the State Forest.

-- 37.2 ft. strings attached to stakes

-- Set of marker flags

-- Clipboards, pencils, data sheets

5) Measuring Up – grades 6-12

Use a Biltmore stick to determine tree height and diameter and calculate the amount of wood in a tree.

-- Biltmore sticks

-- Tape measures OR 66-foot strings on winders

-- Clipboards, pencils, paper

6) Could I Live Here? – grades 3-7

Learn about native wildlife and decide whether particular species could live on this site.

-- Laminated animal photos with info on back

-- Clothespins

7) Trees in Trouble (from PLT) – grades 3-8

Search a section of forest for signs of tree damage or poor health.

-- Clipboards, pencils, paper

-- Tree-tective Trouble Guide and Reading Leaf Symptoms pages

8) The Future Forest? - Grades 6-12, advanced (best for those proficient in tree ID)

Assess tree regeneration and make predictions about the future makeup of the forest.

-- 23 ft, 4.9 in. string loops

-- Data sheets, clipboards, pencils

-- Rulers

-- Tree ID books

9) Pests Gone Wild – Grades 6-12

Learn about invasive species threatening Virginia's forests, brainstorm solutions, and search for invasive plants.

- Pests Gone Wild card set
- Laminated invasive plant photos

10) Success(ion) Stories – Grades 4-7

Learn about typical patterns of change in plant communities, and compare early and later successional stages in the field.

- Laminated plant card set
- Lanyards
- *Clipboards, pencils, and paper for each student

*Students should bring their own clipboards when they will be needed individually (starred activities). The trunk contains 6 - enough for small group activities.