

Grab 'N Go Kit Tree-Mendous!

Tree-Mendous! Overview:

Students play a fast-paced word game that helps them gain an appreciation for the variety of ways people use and benefit from trees.

Items in kit:

- Directions
- 5 sets of 12 game cards laminated

This activity is from Project Food, Land & People

TREE-MENDOUS

Procedure:

1. Tell students they will have the opportunity to think about trees in new ways by playing the word game. Explain that the game involves team members giving each other short clues so teammates can guess words or phrases related to a given category on a game card.
2. Demonstrate how to give clues. Choose a student to join you in modeling the giving and receiving of clues. Give an example such as, "The category for this card is 'Why Trees Are Important'" Explain that the card shows eight words or phrases, each of which is a reason why trees are important. Demonstrate by saying to the chosen student, "See if you can guess a way in which trees are important from the following clues: 'summer' (pause for response), 'cool' (pause for response), 'leaves'." By now the student has probably correctly identified "shade" as the word telling 'Why Trees Are Important.'
3. Divide the class into teams of four students. Distribute a set of the Game Cards to each team. Each set has 12 cards, each with eight words or phrases that fall into a single category related to trees.
4. On each team, half the players face the other half across a table or playing space. Teams divide each set of cards evenly between the two sides. One side of the team starts by holding one of the cards and giving clues (clue-giving players). The other side receives the clues and tries to guess the words (word-guessing players). Remind students to collaborate in clue-giving and in figuring out the words.
5. Explain to students that clue-giving players tell the category and give short clues for the first word on the card to the word-guessing players. When that word is correctly guessed a clue-giving player puts a tally mark for the team. The team goes on to the next word. Play continues until all words have been guessed or until time is called. If a word is not guessed in approximately 30 seconds or sooner, players may say "pass," going to another word and coming back to the stumper word if time allows or when the game is over.
6. The Gamekeeper (you or appointed student) will start the game by saying "GO." This person is also the timekeeper; calling out "STOP" at the end of the time limit set for each card and starting the game again with GO after teams select a new card. (Each team may have its own timekeeper if this works for your group.)
7. Begin the game. When the timekeeper calls STOP, teams turn the category cards face down.
8. Team members switch roles: now the opposite side draws a card and gives the short clues. When the timekeeper calls GO, play starts for the next category card. Again the card is turned face down when words have all been guessed and checked off, or when time is called. Teams continue to switch roles until all cards have been played to the designated time limit. At the end of the game, each team totals their tally marks to determine a winner. Have teams who have not completed all the words on their cards do so before pulling the class together.
9. To review concepts learned with the whole class, volunteers from the teams read the categories, one at a time, from the cards. As each category is named, the class calls out the words they recall from the game and adds new words of their own that fit the category. Some of the stronger teams will have quick answers.

Summarize by asking

- Which categories were the easiest? The hardest? The most fun?
- What are some other categories we could use to describe the characteristics and uses of trees?
- What's the most interesting thing you learned about trees and wood?
- What are at least five ways you benefit from and/or are dependent upon trees?
- Why is it important to grow trees?
- What kinds of careers depend on products from trees?

- In what new ways do you now think about trees?
- What do you appreciate or enjoy about trees?
- How can learning about trees help you in the future?

Challenge students: Everyone has a tree story. What's yours? Invite them to write about a favorite tree and tell why it's special. In their stories, they are to use at least five words from the game. Encourage students to illustrate their trees.

EVALUATION OPTIONS

1. Observe students' participation in the game and responses to procedure 9 to assess recall and understanding.
2. Make mobiles! Students each select a tree category from the game or create a new category. The mobile is constructed to illustrate the items in a category (things made of wood, food from trees, and so on).
3. Ask students to write about or express in any creative form why trees are important to them.
4. Give students a set of at least 12 words pertaining to trees to study. Have them name three groups or categories about trees under which the words could be listed. Have them list the words that are a part of each group or category. Words may be listed more than once.

EXTENSIONS AND VARIATIONS

1. Reverse the game and play "What's the Category?" Players are not told the category on the card. Clue givers give one-word clues about the words on the card. The other half of the team tries to identify the category. For example, clue givers might say, "Apples, nuts, oranges." Receiving players try to answer, "Foods from trees."
2. Instead of students giving the clues verbally, have them pantomime or "charade" the clues. Have students develop their own game cards about other tree categories such as specific trees, favorite trees, and more. Create games about non-tree topics too!

See Project Food, Land & People for the complete activity.

GAME CARDS

(cut apart)

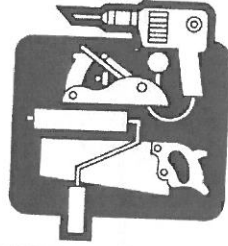
Category: Tools Used With Wood

hammer

axe

saw

sander



screwdriver

tape measure

carving knife

drill

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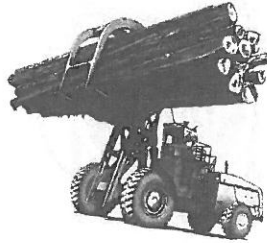
Category: Careers That Use Wood

logger

cabinetmaker

sculptor/artist

grower



shipbuilder

carpenter

forester

sawmill worker

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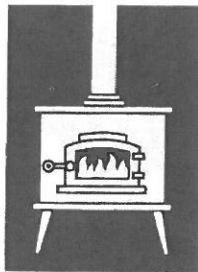
Category: Things You Can Do With Wood

build

float

play

help people walk
(canes)



burn

carve

make music

teeter-totter

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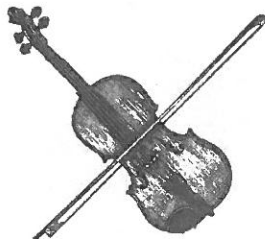
Category: Things Often Made of Wood

boats

houses

musical instruments

posts



furniture

baseball bats

doors

stairways

GAME CARDS
(cut apart)

Category: Kinds of Trees

oak
redwood
walnut
birch

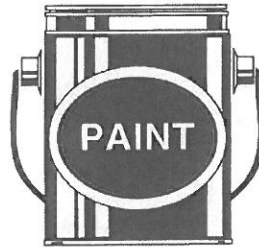


maple
pine
apple
cottonwood

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Category: Wood Products and By-products

paper
lumber
firewood
chewing gum



glue
paint
poles
sawdust

-----cut here-----

Category: Parts of a Tree

branch
leaf
bark
trunk



root
bud
limb
sap

-----cut here-----

Category: Things in Houses Made of Wood

chairs
doors
pencils
matches



cupboards
picture frames
floors
tables

GAME CARDS
(cut apart)

Category: Ways Trees Help People and the Environment

provide windbreaks
prevent erosion
look beautiful
give food



provide shade
give oxygen
absorb carbon dioxide
provide habitat for animals

-----cut here-----

Category: Ways People Damage Trees

chop
break branches
don't water
bend little trees

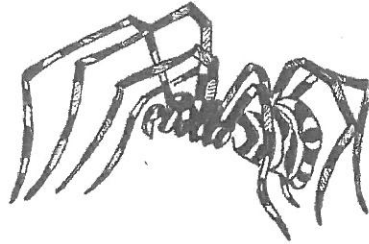


carve
pour harmful things near it
cut roots
burn

-----cut here-----

Category: Animals That Live In and Near Trees

squirrels
woodpeckers
chipmunks
insects

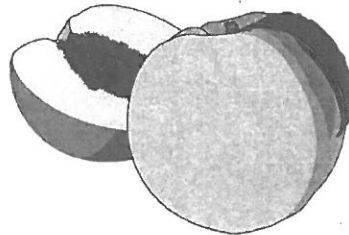


spiders
owls
monkeys
koalas

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Category: Food from Trees

apples
peaches
cinnamon
pecans



pears
cherries
grapefruits
maple syrup

