

The Wisconsin Tree

Description: Participants learn about one of Wisconsin's many natural resources by dressing up someone like a tree.

Purpose: To show how trees are an important part of Wisconsin's agriculture and natural resources in a fun way.

Time: 5-15 minutes

Age/Grade Level: Everyone, especially Cloverbuds.

Suggestions: Check out the supply kit OR collect and prepare supplies well before teaching. A younger member would be a good tree model.

Materials: (Items contained in the kit available on loan from the 4-H office.)

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| Umbrella | Paper bag vest | Plastic fruit |
| Paper leaves | Rope | Gloves with seeds |
| Wood piece necklace | Hat with flowers | Empty Syrup container |

What to Do:

1. Tree Dress-up

Explain that trees are an important part of Wisconsin's agricultural and natural resources. Tell youth they get to create their own tree! Have an assistant or volunteer be the base structure for the tree. As the participants make their tree, tell them what the different items represent:

- **LEAVES:** An umbrella with paper leaves attached to it by tape or Velcro.
- **WOOD:** A small piece of wood with a long string attached to wear as a necklace.
- **BARK:** A vest made from a grocery bag, decorated with squiggly lines to look like bark.
- **ROOTS:** Rope tied together at different lengths with knots in it laid at the "tree's" feet.
- **FLOWERS:** A hat decorated with various flowers (plastic, silk, or homemade flowers).
- **FRUIT:** Fruit shapes cut out of construction paper or use plastic models. Tie them with string and loop them over outstretched arms.
- **SEEDS:** Gloves with paper cut outs of seeds or glue actual seeds on it.
- **SAP:** Hold empty maple syrup jug.

2. Questions:

- What do you think of our tree?
- How is it similar to a real tree? How is it different?
- What are some ways that we use forests and trees?
(Lumber, recreation, wildlife habitat, etc.)
 - Apples, cherries, pears, maple syrup, timber, lumber, pulp, and bark chips are examples of **commodities** – a product of agriculture or mining.
- How much of Wisconsin's 15.7 million acres do you think are covered by forests?
(Nearly half.)
- True/False: Individuals and families hold the largest portion of Wisconsin's forest.
(True- 57% About 260,000 private, non-industrial landowners care for 9.7 million acres of woodland in Wisconsin!)
- What are some other commodities that are important in Wisconsin?
(Wisconsin is one of the most diverse agricultural production states in the nation, producing a variety of dairy, livestock, vegetables, grains, and nursery stock. Wisconsin's climate, natural resources, agribusiness infrastructure and farm heritage keep Wisconsin one of the top ten Ag states in the nation.)

Adapted By: Micah Stege, St. Lawrence Eager Beavers 4-H Club, October 2017

Sources: Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom www.wisagclassroom.org
Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, 1985.

