

Recommended Books from the LEAF Lesson Guides

Books for Elementary Students

All From an Oak Tree by Daniel Jacobs. (New York: Newbridge Educational Publishing, LLC., 1999.) Illustrates the life cycle and parts of an oak tree. Tells about many animals and other plants that depend on oaks.

At Grandpa's Sugar Bush by Margaret Carney and Janet Wilson. (Buffalo, NY: Kids Can Press, 1998.) Tells the story of kids helping their grandfather collect maple sap to make maple syrup.

Discovering Nature – The Forest by I. Sanchez and C. Peris. (New York: Barron's, 1991.) Describes a forest as a system including what lives there, how it changes, and what products come from it.

The Forest Where Ashley Lives by Mark A. Vitosh and Ashley L. Vitosh. (Ames, IA: Iowa State University Extension, 2000.) Written from the perspective of a seven-year-old, this book describes urban forests and contains lots of “Did you know?” facts about trees and forests.

The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein. (New York: Harper & Row, 1964.) This classic story tells of a boy's use of a tree as he grows from a young boy to an old man.

The Grandpa Tree by Mike Donahue. (Niwot, CO: Roberts Rinehart, Inc., 1998.) Follow the life of a tree as it grows from a seed to an old grandpa tree. Discover the tree's interactions with other living and nonliving parts of the forest.

How the Forest Grew by William Jaspersohn. (New York: Mulberry Books, 1992.) This book tells the story of succession of a forest.

In the Woods by Ermanno Cristini and Luigi Puricelli. (Natick, MA: Picture Book Studio USA, 1983.) A picture book about the plants, animals, insects, and flowers of the forest.

In the Woods: Who's Been Here? by Lindsay Barrett George. (New York: Greenwillow Books, 1995.) Two children take a walk in the woods. They see many signs of animals and ask, “Who's Been Here?” Contains many large pictures of forest animals.

Journey Back to Lumberjack Camp by Janie Lynn Panagopoulos (Spring Lake, MI: River Road Publications, 1993.) In this chapter book, twelve-year-old Gus McCarty awakens to find himself working at a lumberjack camp in Michigan during the booming lumberjack era. “Lumberjack lingo” is used throughout and defined in the glossary. (fourth grade reader)

A Log's Life by Wendy Pfeffer. (New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 1997.) Follows the life of a log from tree to log to soil to tree again. Focuses on the animals that use the tree as it goes through its life stages.

Mighty Tree by Dick Gackenbach. (San Diego: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992.) Story of the lives of three trees. One becomes a Christmas tree, one is made into products, and the other is a home for animals and reseeds the forest.

Once There Was A Tree by Natalja Romanova. (New York: Dial Books, 1985.) A story of a tree stump and the animals that call it home.

One Day in the Woods by Jean Craighead George. (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1988.) In this illustrated book, a girl climbs a tree and observes the things around her. It examines forest layers, habitat, birds, animals, insects, and forest characteristics.

One Small Square: Woods by Donald M. Silver. (McGraw-Hill, 1995.) This book is packed with information, illustrations, and activity ideas. It encourages children to explore one small square of woods throughout the year to observe changes and identify plants and animals.

A Special Gift by Andrea Spalding. (Canada: Canada-British Columbia Partnership Agreement on Forest Resource Development: FRDA II, 1995.) A boy finds a cone and plants the seeds. A tree grows as he does and he brings his own daughter to see the tree.

A Tree Is Nice by Janice May Udr (Harper & Row. 1956.) This book tells about reasons trees are nice. Many of these reasons relate to the trees in our own backyards.

Tree Trunk Traffic by Bianca Lavies. (New York: E.P. Dutton, 1989.) Contains photographs of animals and insects in a tree along with a brief explanation of what's seen.

Who Lives in a Tree? by Lisa Trumbauer. (New York, Newbridge Educational Publishing, LLC., 1998.) A simple book with pictures of animals that live in trees.

Field Guides

A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs: Northeastern and North-central United States and Southeastern and South-central Canada by George A. Petrides and Roger Tory Peterson (Houghton Mifflin Co., 1973.)

National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees Eastern Region by Elbert L. Little, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1980.

A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide: The North Woods of Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Southern Ontario by Glenda Daniel and Jerry Sullivan (Sierra Club Books, 1981.) Read about forest communities, their characteristics, common trees, and plants found in them. Learn abiotic factors that affect forests.

Trees of North America and Europe by Roger Phillips (New York: Random House, 1978.) This book features great colored photographs of leaves, bark, seeds, flowers, silhouettes, and descriptions of many trees.

Reference/Special Interest Books

Forests: Identifying Propaganda Techniques by Robert Anderson (Greenhaven Press, Inc. 1992.) Read position statements about topics such as forest management, logging, acid rain, humans and the rainforest written from two opposing views. Readers learn how to identify propaganda techniques used in each.

Northwoods Wildlife: A Watcher's Guide to Habitats by Janine M. Benyus. (Northwoods Press, Inc. 1989.) Learn about the plants and animals in various forest communities in the upper Great Lakes Region.

Temperate Deciduous Forest by April Pulley Sayre. (New York: Twenty-First Century Books, 1994.) This book looks at temperate forest biomes and the plants and animals in them. It talks about communities, people and forests, and the abiotic factors that influence them.

There's Daylight in the Swamps by Mert Cowley (Chetek, WI: Banksiana Publishing Co.) This book documents the history of logging in the Great Lakes Region. Photographs, drawings, letters, and job descriptions give you a feel for what lumber camp was really like.

Wisconsin Indians by Nancy Oestreich Lurie. (Madison, WI: The Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2002.) This book provides a wide range of information, both historical and current, about Wisconsin's Native American tribes.

The books on this list were chosen for their applicability to specific lessons in the LEAF guides. There are many other good forestry-related books available.