Urban Forest Rural Forest Comparison

The following pictures can be used to help students at any grade level visualize and understand what is meant by “urban forest” and “rural forest.” Points about each picture are made below for discussion. Alter discussion to be age appropriate for your class.

Picture A Urban Forest
Urban forests contain:
- Buildings
- Cars
- Parking lots
- People

Picture B Urban Forest
Urban forests contain:
- Houses
- Cars
- Streets
- Utilities (telephone poles, underground utilities)
- Signs
- People

Picture C Urban Forest
Urban forests have different places trees grow. Trees planted along streets are called “street trees.”

Picture D Urban Forest
Urban forests have different places trees grow. Parks where people go to be outside may have lots of trees. People are a big part of urban forests.

Picture E Rural Forest
There are different kinds of rural forests. Some have coniferous and deciduous trees.

Picture F Rural Forest
There are no sidewalks to shovel in a rural forest in winter.

Picture G Rural Forest
A rural forest isn’t just trees and plants. It may have streams and rocks as well.

Picture H Rural Forest
Some rural forests are grown like a crop and have trees planted in rows.
Picture C Urban Forest
Picture E Rural Forest