



1

WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?

Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?

IN THIS LESSON YOU WILL FIND:

LESSON WHICH INCLUDES

- What Does a Forester Do?
- What Do Urban Foresters Do?
- Forester Skills
- How Do You Become a Forester?
- Careers in Forestry
 - Video of Forester and Forester/Forest Ranger
 - Additional Career Videos

LINK TO GOOGLE RESOURCES

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THIS THEME

- Leaf Rubbings

LINKS TO VIDEOS THAT SUPPORT THIS LESSON

LEAF LESSONS THAT SUPPORT THIS THEME

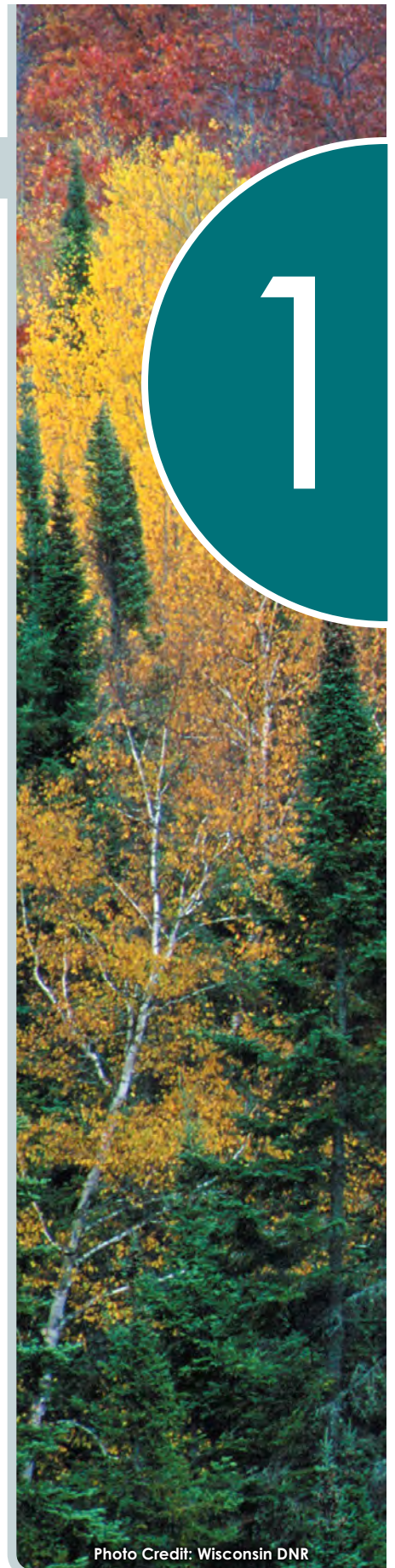


Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR



WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

- Students will examine the job of a forester.
- Students will understand the skills needed to be a forester.
- Students will understand how to become a forester.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVE

- Students will explore additional forest/forestry related careers.

WISCONSIN DNR KEY TARGET MESSAGES

- Wisconsin has a plan to sustain the healthy, working forests vital to Wisconsin's well-being. (1)
- Diversity in both the forest resource and the forestry workforce is vital. (3)
- Forests are a renewable resource providing products, aesthetics and recreational opportunities important to our everyday lives. (6)
- Forests support other vital natural resources in Wisconsin, including clean air, water, and wildlife habitat. (7)

WISCONSIN STANDARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Students analyze the dynamic balance between natural and cultural systems. (Strand 3: Engage; Standard 6)
- Students engage in experiences to develop stewardship for the sustainability of natural and cultural systems. (Strand 3: Engage; Standard 7)

PREPARATION

- Lesson is prepped for GRADES 4-12; follow modifications for working with a K-3 audience.
- Read the lesson to familiarize yourself with what you need to explain and where you may need to elaborate.
- If you are presenting indoors and want to use the slideshow/videos:
 - Reach out to the teacher to make sure there is a projector and computer with internet available.
 - Email the slideshow to the teacher and ask them to have it ready for your visit.
- If you are presenting outdoors, consider having print images from the slideshow to share/pass around.
- You know the job of a forester best! Feel free to make this lesson your own!

WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?

MATERIALS

Google resources to support this theme can be accessed at uwsp.edu/wcee/wcee/leaf/leaf-curriculum/lessons-for-forestry-professionals/.

Please share the appropriate grade level slideshow with the educator so they have access to materials used in the activity and other recommended teacher resources.

- Team Level Forester Kit
- Notecards or sticky notes for student questions
- Grades 4-12 Slideshow_Theme 1_What does a forester do? (Google resource)
- Grades K-3 Slideshow_Theme 1_What does a forester do? (Google resource)
- Video Links (in slideshow)



Google resources to support this theme can be found at leafprogram.org/fg



MODIFICATIONS

K-3 Audience

- Use alternate K-3 slideshow.

For Urban Setting

- Spend additional time on What Do Urban Foresters Do? section.
- Discuss storm damage clean-up.

For Indoor Setting

- Use slideshow and video resources to support your presentation.

For Outdoor Setting

- Print images from slideshow (or other images) to show learners.
- Rely on items from the Team Level Forester Kit in place of slideshow and video.



WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?

DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING 6 TOPICS IN YOUR PRESENTATION

1. Forester Introduction

- Name
- Job Title
- Where do you work?
- Why did you become a forester?
- What do you like best about being a forester?
- Before we continue, write down one question you have for me today.

2. What Does a Forester Do?

Heather Berkland, Chief State Forester, Wisconsin DNR, states the common goal of forest professionals is, "To sustainably manage forests for the economical, ecological, social and cultural benefits for all of us today and for the future." Show tools from your Team Level Forester Kit as you discuss these topics:

- Planting and caring for trees
- Conducting forest inventories
- Marking trees that should be cut
- Managing timber sales
- Helping private landowners meet goals for their land
- Managing fire (prescribed burns, wildfire prevention, extinguishing fires)
- Providing leadership (county and school forests)

3. What Do Urban Foresters Do?

Do not skip this even if you are NOT presenting to an urban audience.

- WHAT ARE URBAN FORESTS? The urban forest is all the trees, plants, and beings living in and around a city, town, village, etc. The urban forest includes both public and private lands.
- WHAT DO URBAN FORESTERS DO? Manage trees and tree canopies in cities for:
 - Energy conservation
 - Economic value
 - Improved air quality
 - Reduced stormwater runoff
 - Carbon storage
 - Aesthetics

WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?



4. Forester Skills

- Provide leadership
- Communicate effectively
- Reason and problem solve
- Manage time
- Collaborate
- Use math and science
- Work with tools

5. How Do You Become a Forester?

- Earn a bachelor's degree (or higher) from a school with a curriculum accredited by the Society of American Foresters or an equivalent degree.
- In Wisconsin, students can earn a bachelor's degree in forestry at:
 - University of Wisconsin-Madison
 - University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- In Wisconsin, students can earn a certificate to be a Forest Management Specialist at:
 - Fox Valley Technical College, Appleton

6. Careers in Forestry

Play one or more videos from the slideshow or discuss these featured careers from WIDNRTV YouTube channel:

- Forester
- Forest Ranger
- Forestry Technician
- Forest Products Specialist
- Field Technology Coordinator
- Forest Management and Ecology Research Scientist
- Forest Inventory Analyst



WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?

ADDRESS QUESTIONS

- Are there any questions from the presentation?
- Collect notecards/sticky notes and answer questions.

REVIEW KEY MESSAGES

- Foresters and others who work in the forest sustainably manage forests for the economical, ecological, social, and cultural benefits for all of us today and for the future.
- Foresters sustainably manage forests by planting, caring for, and harvesting trees.
- Foresters use a variety of skills during their work and must be effective communicators, coordinators, and collaborators.
- There are several interesting careers related to forests and forestry.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THIS THEME

LEAF RUBBINGS: Collect leaves with students (or bring some along), place paper over leaves, gently rub a crayon over the leaves, and talk about the different parts of the leaves.

RECOMMENDED TEACHER RESOURCES

All recommended teacher resources are included in the Theme 1 Slideshow Presentation (Google resource). Resources can also be downloaded from the LEAF website (uwsp.edu/wcee/wcee/leaf/leaf-curriculum). Please share the slideshow or link to the website with the educators you work with.

- WIDNRTV career videos that were not shown during the presentation (Forester, Forest Ranger, Forestry Technician, Forest Products Specialist, Field Technology Coordinator, Forest Management and Ecology Research Scientist, and/or Forest Inventory Analyst)
- Into Forestry: Heroes of the Forest Video
- LEAF K-12 Forestry Lesson Guide Career Explorations
- LEAF K-12 Forestry Lessons and Field Enhancements



Photo Credit: Wisconsin DNR

WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?



LETTER TEMPLATE – CONFIRMATION LETTER

Theme 1: What Does a Forester Do?

Dear (Insert Your Name),

This letter confirms that I am scheduled to present What Does a Forester Do? to your (insert grade level) class on (insert program date and time).

During my program students will:

- Examine the job of a forester.
- Understand how to become a forester and the skills needed to be a forester.
- Explore forestry-related careers.

Please review the information provided above and contact me if anything is incorrect.

If you would like to do any advanced preparation, feel free to have each student write a question for me on a notecard or sticky note. If time permits, I will answer these questions following the presentation.

I will check in at the office when I arrive. Please let someone in the office know that I am coming. I plan to arrive 10 to 15 minutes before the program is scheduled to begin to set up for the activities. I look forward to working with you soon!

Sincerely,

(Insert Your Name)



WHAT DOES A FORESTER DO?

LETTER TEMPLATE – FOLLOW-UP LETTER

Theme 1: What Does a Forester Do?

Dear (Insert Your Name),

Thank you for inviting me into your classroom to help students understand the role of a forester. I hope you and your students enjoyed the program.

If you would like to extend student learning and engagement related to forestry following my visit, please consider these LEAF activities which can be found in the LEAF Wisconsin K-12 Forestry Lesson Guides on the LEAF website.

Link: www.uwsp.edu/wcee/wcee/leaf/leaf-curriculum/

Theme 1: What Does a Forester Do?

- LEAF 2-3 Field Enhancement 1: I Can Be a Forester
- LEAF 5-6 Lesson 6: What Is Management?
- LEAF 7-8 Lesson 3: How Forests Are Managed

I also recommend lessons from the LEAF Urban Forest Lesson Guide which can be accessed at the link shared above.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

(Insert Your Name)