

Student Activity Sheet

The Tree Detective Module

1. Why learn to identify trees?
2. List five different features that we can use to identify a tree.
3. A _____ acorn has rings around the tip that look like a bull's-eye.
4. Describe the difference between a simple leaf and a compound leaf. Use a drawing if necessary.
5. Why was white oak wood favored for shipbuilding and barrel making?
6. It takes about _____ gallons of sugar maple sap to make _____ gallon(s) of syrup or _____ pound(s) of sugar.

Teacher Answer Sheet

The Tree Detective Module

1. Why learn to identify trees?

Answer: To properly manage the trees in a forest--or even in a yard--we must know what kind of trees we are dealing with because different tree species need different amounts of light, water, and nutrients to grow. Also, many insects and diseases favor particular species of trees. Knowing a tree's identity can help us figure out what is "bugging" a sick tree! Tree identification is so important that it is one of the first skills foresters learn. If you don't know what a tree is, there are a variety of clues you can use to figure it out.

2. List five different features that we can use to identify a tree.

Answer: Tree type, leaves, bark, buds, twigs, growth form, and color were all mentioned in the module. Bundle scars and leaf scars were also mentioned in the module and would be acceptable answers.

3. A scarlet oak acorn has rings around the tip that look like a bull's-eye.
4. Describe the difference between a simple leaf and a compound leaf. Use a drawing if necessary.

Answer: A compound leaf has many leaflets attached to a single stalk. This whole assemblage is considered to be a leaf. One leaf attached to a stalk is a simple leaf.

5. Why was white oak wood favored for shipbuilding and barrel making?

Answer: Wood from white oaks is heavy, hard, and strong. Pores in the heartwood are plugged with growths called tyloses, making the wood waterproof. As a result, white oak was once favored for shipbuilding, and is still used to make barrels, kegs and casks.

6. It takes about 34 gallons of sugar maple sap to make 1 gallon(s) of syrup or 8 pound(s) of sugar.