

Gifts from the Forest

Please use this checklist to confirm that all of the parts of this station are in this bag both when it is unpacked before the OSF Science Night AND when it is re-packed after your event.

- Table sign, laminated
- Explanation/ What to Do/ Answer Key, laminated
- 1 – 12x6x6" box, labeled Tropical Rainforest
- 1 – 12x6x6" box, labeled Temperate Forest
- 1 – bag of rice
- 1 each – apple, pineapple, potato, banana
- 1 – small jar of sourwood honey
- 1 – bottle of maple syrup
- 1 – bottle of Pine Sol
- 1 – Ziploc bag of walnuts
- 1 - container cashews
- 1 - container pecans
- 1 – pkg. tapioca pudding
- 1 piece of granite (rock)
- 1 – bag of cinnamon sticks
- 1 – box of herbal teas
- 1 – small bag of coffee
- 1 piece of bamboo
- 1 – pen
- 1 – container of Hershey's cocoa
- 1 – prescription medicine bottle
- 1 – bottle Ginseng
- 1 – bottle Goldenseal/Echinacea

You will need to set up the Passport Question with Canada Warbler at this station. It can be found in the PASSPORT bag.

The "Gifts from the Forest" display board should be placed at this station.

What you will need to provide for this activity station:

- Tape to attach table sign

GIFTS FROM THE FOREST

Explanation/Background:

Most people recognize that forests offer them many gifts. Forest trees have been used for fuel, shelters, houses, boats, carts and wheels, weapons, and many other uses. Other plants have provided foods, medicines, and other useful products. Forest animals have been sources of food and clothing as well.

HOWEVER, sometimes people have been too greedy in using forest resources. Long ago, there were forests instead of desert in the Middle East, but they were consumed for buildings and fuel. There are very few forested areas left in that part of the world. So when using forest gifts, we must use caution in how much we take from the forests. For example, a primary gift of forests has always been wood. It still is – but today we want this gift to be managed so as not to exhaust the forests and their ecosystems. We now know that we need to maintain and protect these forests. We may use the gifts they offer but must be careful not to deplete them.

Many of these forest gifts (products) are grown in parts of the forest that have been clear-cut for easier farming. Coffee and chocolate, for example, can be shade-grown under the canopy of a forest. This is much better for the environment as a whole. We must also be careful not to over-harvest plants or take too many animals for these products. Depleting too many of these species may lead to extinction and exploit native peoples.

Primary “Gifts” from the forest:

Wood: wood is a great resource but needs wise management.

Reducing global warming: leaves absorb carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

Leaf litter: forest invertebrates, bacteria, and fungi recycle wastes into nutrients in soil.

Animals and insects: forests are a host for biodiversity.

Soil and plants: healthy forests help control soil erosion.

Clean air: plants breathe in carbon dioxide and breathe out oxygen.

What You Will Do:

Identify objects that represent gifts derived from the tropical rainforest and Georgia temperate forests, as well as products that are not from forests.

What You Need:

- Tropical Rainforest gift box
- Georgia Temperate Forest gift box
- Products
 - Coffee
 - Cocoa
 - Banana
 - Cashews
 - Pineapple
 - Tapioca

- Cinnamon
- Medicine bottle
- Bamboo
- Rice
- Walnuts
- Piece of granite (rock)
- Sourwood honey
- Ginseng
- Maple syrup
- Goldenseal
- Pecans
- Potato
- Herbal tea
- PineSol
- Apple
- Pen

What To Do:

1. Place the two gift boxes on the table with the different forest products/“gifts” laid out in front of them.
2. Explain to participants that many products we use on a daily basis come from forests. Mention a few of the primary resources or “gifts” that the forest produces.
3. Participants should separate all the “gifts” into the boxes, differentiating what comes from a Georgia temperate forest and products from a tropical rainforest. *Note that there are some products that are not from the forest at all and should be left out of the boxes.*
4. Review answers with participant.
5. Remove gifts from boxes for next participant.

Answer Key

<u>Georgia Temperate Forest</u>	<u>Tropical Rainforest</u>	<u>Non-forest Products</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sourwood honey ○ Pecans ○ Ginseng ○ Maple syrup ○ Goldenseal ○ PineSol ○ Apple ○ Walnuts ○ Herbal Tea ○ Medicine bottle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coffee ○ Cocoa ○ Banana ○ Cashews ○ Pineapple ○ Tapioca ○ Cinnamon ○ Bamboo ○ Herbal Tea ○ Medicine bottle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pen ○ Rice ○ Piece of granite (Rock) ○ Potato