

Power Point Notes for Teachers- Harvesting the Forest

Depending on school location, students may not have any knowledge of tree harvest. These set of slides shows them the steps necessary from forest to product.

#1 American beavers are rodents, a subgroup of mammals that includes woodchucks, chipmunks, pocket gophers, squirrels and prairie dogs. Beavers have very large teeth that grow continuously throughout their lives. As beavers chew through tree trunks and bark, their teeth get worn down, so the continuous growth of their teeth ensures they always have a good set of choppers. They use the trees they harvest to build lodges and dams, creating ponds, and eat the tender wood inside the bark.

#2 Wood is harvested around the world by many available methods. This family in South Africa may be taking this wood to sell or trade or for use at home for fires to heat and cook. We use wood in much larger quantities and sizes, so how do we get it where we need it?

#3 The definition of Harvest.

#4, #5, #6 Felling and processing a tree are the first steps. This process has changed as tools have been developed.

#7 This brief video highlights the equipment in use today to make these first steps of tree harvest quicker and more efficient. Many companies manufacture such equipment with special modifications for forest type and terrain.

#8, #9, #10 The next steps involve moving the log from the forest. Historically horses, oxen, and waterways were used. Today, semi-trucks, trains and ships are used to move logs long distances.

#11 It is a common misconception that there is nothing left after a wildfire. However, we can often salvage usable timber from burn areas, which has several benefits – it removes the excess fuels from the burned area to prevent recurring high intensity fires; it provides products for special purposes; and it provides employment. The video demonstrates one such project.