

Common Trees of the Southern Gulf Islands

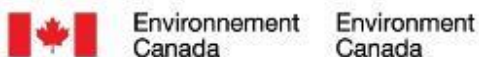


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Activity name: Introduction to Common Trees of the Southern Gulf Islands

Ages: 6-14

Activity Energy: low

Length of time: 1 to 1.5 hours

Number of Participants: 10 – 30

Indoor/Outdoor: Both

Concept: Students learn to identify the six most common tree species in the Southern Gulf Islands based on physical characteristics.

Materials Required: PowerPoint with pictures and information of the different trees species (provided), samples of the different tree species, outside area with examples of each of the different tree species, soft measuring tapes for measuring tree circumference, pencils and notebooks for writing down tree species names and measurements, calculators for calculating diameter.

Introduction: The six most common tree species in the Southern Gulf Islands are Douglas fir, western red cedar, grand fir, arbutus, big leaf maple, and red alder. Tree identification is a valuable skill for anyone living in a rural environment. Each tree species has different properties that make them useful for different purposes. Before students can begin to learn what the trees can be used for they must be able to tell them apart.

Methods:

1. PowerPoint of trees (20 minutes): There is a PowerPoint presentation attached to this resource. See notes on individual slides for detailed information about the different tree species. It is recommended you have physical examples of the tree species available for the students during the presentation.
2. Explanation of equation for calculating tree diameter (5 minutes): Measuring the circumference of a tree at a height of 1.3m from the ground, and using that measurement to calculate the tree diameter is a standard practice in forestry. $Circumference/3.14 = diameter$.
3. Outside: visit an example of each tree species and point out the identifying features (15 minutes)
4. Outside: Have the students find 3 trees each from different species and measure/record circumference (15 minutes)
5. Inside: assist students with calculating the diameter of each of their trees (10 minutes)

Tips for Teachers

- Measuring tapes for recording tree circumference can be made by sticking two pieces of 150cm duct tape together back to back. Lay the stuck together pieces alongside a meter stick and mark the measurements along the duct tape. White duct tape is ideal but grey works almost as well.
- In order to have the students remember how to tell the difference between the trees they must be encouraged to practice on a regular basis.