

- Welcome/ Introduction:** **Today's Topic-Maple Syrup Time**
Question: Where does maple syrup come from?
- Ice Breaker/ Game:** **Maple Syrup Legends**-Tell the story of "Manabozho and the Maple Trees". Students to act out the parts of the Anishinabe people in the story.
- Background/ Exploration:** Describe the history of making maple syrup. Tell legend of chief Woksis. Show Native American tools & methods. Pioneer/settler tools & methods. Modern/commercial tools & methods.
- Why do maples have sweet sap this time of year?
Tree Parts-Explain the basic parts of a tree, emphasizing the xylem and sapwood.
- Activity:** **Build a Tree** (Cornell)-Help students act out the parts of a tree.
- Activity:** **Maple Seed helicopters** (*Maple Sugaring Story*)-Fly paper "helicopters".
- Trail Talk:** Trail Rules.
What we will do-Find a maple tree and tap it to collect sap.
*Taste syrup on ice cream or sugar on snow.
- OUTDOOR EXPLORATION:** Find a maple tree. Check for opposite branching and other identification features. Measure it to see if it is big enough to tap (10"+ diameter).
- Activity:** **Tap a Tree**-
Bore the hole to tap the tree, hammer in the spile, taste the sap, hang the bucket.
- Sugarhouse Visit**-See the boiling process and learn about modern syrup production.
- Game:** **Syrup Relay**-Students run to 4 stations and draw cards to see if they are successful in following the steps of boiling sap down to syrup.
- Send Off:** Goodbye!
Next Month-Rocks
- Take Home:** Parent Outline
Paper "helicopter"

Vocabulary

Sugarbush, spile, cambium, heartwood, sapwood, xylem, phloem, bud, diameter, filter, jack wax, percent, sap, sediment, skim, hydrometer, evaporation, tap, mokuk, photosynthesis, brace & bit, yoke

Background and Activity References

- <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD1067.html> backyard syrup basics
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/naturalresources/DD6286.html> Maple tree identification
<http://members.iquest.net/~childers/maple/hist.html> History of syruping

Search "maple syrup" on the internet for lots more information on how -to, recipes, & products

- Caduto, M. J., and J. Bruchac. 1989. *Keepers of the Earth: Native American Stories and Environmental Activities for Children*. Fulcrum, Inc. Golden, CO. P. 145 Manahbozho and the Maple Trees
- Carney, Margaret, and Janet Wilson. 1997. *At Grandpa's Sugar Bush*. Kids Can Press, Ltd., Tonawanda, NY. A story about a child helping make maple syrup
- Frost, Frances. 1950. *Maple Sugar for Windy Foot*. McGraw-Hill, NY.
From a series told from a New England farm pony's perspective.
- Gibbons, Gail. 1979. *The Missing Maple Syrup Sap Mystery*. Frederick Warne, NY.
- Gokay, Nancy Hatch. 1980. *Sugar Bush-Making Maple Syrup*. Hillsdale Educational Publishers, MI.
How to with photos of syruping process and recipes
- Hauser, Susan C. 1997. *Sugartime: The Hidden Pleasures of Making Maple Syrup*. The Lyons Press.
- Keller, Kristin Thoenns. 2004. *From Maple Trees to Maple Syrup*. First Facts Books.
Book for ages 9-12
- Sloane, Eric. 1962. *Diary of an Early American Boy*. Ballantine Books, NY.
- Wilder, Laura Ingalls. 1974. *Little House in the Big Woods*. Scholastic Book Services, NY.
"The Sugar Snow" chapter tells about a sugaring party at Grandma's