

## The Forest & Me



Pennsylvania means "Penn's Woods" and is well known for its forests. It also contains the largest certified forest in the nation. The state is home to over 2.2 million acres of forest. That's over 60 percent of Pennsylvania! Over 25,000 miles of waterways run through Pennsylvania's forests and they are home to all sorts of plants and animals.

When people think about forests, one of the first things that pop into their heads is trees. There are so many different kinds of trees in the world, and in PA there are over 100 species! These trees help provide us with all kinds of resources. The wood can be used to make products like fences, paper, and furniture. Trees also contribute to the environment by providing oxygen and improving air quality.

The forest is home to so many different kinds of plants and animals, and we have to keep it safe for them to keep living there! Everything from big bears to little chipmunks can be found in our forests.



There are a lot of things we can do in our forests! We can go hiking, swimming and camping. A lot of people like to go hunting or watch wildlife there too. There are a lot of hiking and trails to use to explore the variety of nature in our forests. There are over 100,000 miles of trails and over 23,000 developed recreation sites in the United States for us to use and enjoy our forests!



### What did you learn?

1. Wood can be used for\_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Fences
- B. Paper
- C. Furniture
- D. All of the above

2. There are over \_\_\_\_\_miles of hiking trails in the United States' forests.

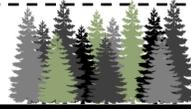
- A. 10,000
- B. 1000
- C. 100,000

3. The forest is home to\_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Factories
- B. Plants and Animals
- C. Amusement Parks



## Career Corner



**Conservation Officer (CO)** - Conservation officers are the law enforcement of the forest. As people go out to enjoy their time with nature, conservation officers make sure people are following the laws to ensure everyone has a safe, healthy visit with nature.

### How COs Benefit Agriculture:

- Help expose the public to nature
- Agriculture needs to work with nature

### Conservation Officers Study:

- Wildlife Management
- Criminology



SCAN ME



## Farm Facts



- PA has 20 state forests.
- Pennsylvania has about 134 different species of native trees.
- Pennsylvania is the largest producer of hardwoods in the country.
- The United States has **154** protected areas known as National Forests covering 188,336,179 acres.

## Make a Leaf Collection

### Materials:

- Wax paper
- Towel
- Iron
- Scissors
- Scrapbook
- Tape
- LEAVES!



### Steps:

1. Go to a state park or forest near your house and find some different kinds of leaves.
2. Put the leaf in between two pieces of wax paper.
3. Cover the wax paper with a towel and iron it.
4. Let the leaf and paper cool down.
5. Cut your wax paper to the size you want and then tape it in your scrapbook.
6. Use the characteristics of the leaves to identify and label them.

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