

EVERY TREE FOR ITSELF

SUGGESTIONS AND VARIATIONS (PLT ACTIVITY 27, PAGE 117)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Participants are all Eastern White Pine trees. Have students stand in a chosen area with arms out to simulate the growing branches of trees.
2. Explain trees need three items to survive: water, sunlight, and nutrients.
3. Spread out the three colors of chips around students (Blue=water, Sun=red, White=nutrients)
4. Set your clock for 30 seconds, encourage students to grab as many chips using their arms (branches) as they can without moving their feet (roots).
5. Discuss how many of each color each student (tree) was able to pick up.

CONNECTIONS

Make connections to nature based on student actions:

- **Watch for kids who try to hoard chips. Does this happen in real life with trees?** Certain species [willow or cedar] require more water than other species.
- **If there are bullies pushing other students around, ask- does this happen in real life with trees?** Invasive species such as Autumn Olive can out-compete native species.
- **Are students evenly dispersed in a row? Does this happen in nature?** (Not naturally, but it can, if they are planted)
- **Do some students "limbs" shade others?** Use this question to connect to shade or sun loving species. (Shade loving: Sugar maple, Sun loving: Paper Birch)

VARIATIONS

Use these activity variations to explore other scenarios with trees:

- Use less blue chips to simulate a drought
- Put an "X" on certain chips to simulate water contamination or invasive species/diseases (Do not let students know until they pick them up)

QUESTIONS TO ASK

1. When a tree dies, does it go to waste? (No, it becomes nutrients and habitat)
2. What in your home is made of trees? (Pencil, toilet paper, kitchen table, gum)
3. What is Michigan's state tree? (Eastern White Pine)
4. What are the two main types of trees? (Deciduous: sheds leaves annually & Coniferous: Evergreens that are cone-bearing)



ALL ABOUT THE EASTERN WHITE PINE

Scientific Name: Pinus strobus

EWP is
Michigan's
state tree

EWP wood is
used for crates,
boxes, boats
and lumber

Optimum
planting for EWP
is 3 feet apart

EWP is
Michigan's 7th
favorite
Christmas Tree

When planting EWP
always remember to
look up for
obstructions. EWP
matures between 80
100 feet tall.

The tallest EWP in
Michigan stands
180 ft tall and is
located in
Marquette, MI

EWP is a
species of
least
concern

EWP has clusters
of 5 needles.
Remember:
W*H*I*T*E