

Higgins Lake Nursery

Note to teachers: This supplement includes a discussion guide, lessons and Michigan Content Standards to use with the Michigan Time Traveler page. You may reproduce the pages in this supplement to use with students.

MASTERY QUESTIONS (*SOC 1.1 Time and Chronology; SOC. 1.2 Comprehending the Past; SOC 1.3 Analyzing and Interpreting the Past*)

- **Michigan's First Tree Nursery:** What is a tree nursery? Why is it called a nursery? Why did the legislature want to create programs to protect and preserve trees? What did the nursery workers do to create the first nursery?
- **From Pinecones to Trees:** How did foresters harvest seeds from pinecones? What is a tumbler and how was it used? After the workers put the seeds in the tumbler the second time, what did they do with the seeds?
- **The Forest Warden's Report:** What was the land like before the nursery workers planted the seeds? How did the nursery workers plant the pine seeds?
- **Nursery Timeline:** When did the first great fire sweep across Michigan? In 1904 how many pounds of seed did nurserymen plant? In 1938 how many acres of state forestland were planted with seedlings from Higgins Lake Nursery?

ACTIVITY ONE: Celebrate Arbor Day and Plant Seedlings

(*SOC. 1.1 Time and Chronology; SOC. 1.2 Comprehending the Past; SOC. II. 3 Human /Environment Interaction*)

Background: The first Arbor Day was on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska. Julius Sterling Morton (1832-1902), a Nebraska journalist and politician who came from Michigan, created the first Arbor Day. Morton wanted to recognize the importance of trees in our lives. When he moved west from Michigan he missed the vibrant trees he grew up with. He planted trees throughout his life. He proposed that a special day be set aside dedicated to planting trees and increasing people's awareness of the importance of trees. More than one million trees were planted on Nebraska's first Arbor Day. Kansas, Tennessee, Minnesota and Ohio were the next states to proclaim their own Arbor Days. Michigan's Governor Hazen S. Pingree proclaimed Arbor Day on March 30, 1897. Today all 50 states celebrate Arbor Day. The dates vary in keeping with the local climate. At the federal level, in 1970, President Richard Nixon proclaimed the last Friday in April as National Arbor Day. Arbor Day is also now celebrated in other countries. Arbor Day provides an wonderful opportunity for people to examine their yards and trees.

Directions:

- Have students look in the newspaper to find out when and where Arbor Day will be celebrated in your community. Explore the possibility of having students attend an Arbor Day event.
- Discuss with students how they would like to celebrate Arbor Day at their school. They might plant seedlings or making oral presentations about the history of Arbor Day and the significance of planting trees both now and in the past. Students could prepare posters and history reports for the event. Have them invite the whole school to the event. Perhaps this could become an annual event.

ACTIVITY TWO: Governor Pingree’s Proclamation

(SOC. III. 1 Purposes of Government, SOC. III. 2 Democracy in Action, SOC. IV.3 Role of Government)

Directions:

Pass out copies of the newspaper article from the *Lansing Republican* of March 30, 1897 (page 3), about Governor Pingree’s Arbor Day.

Discuss:

- Why did Governor Pingree designate a special day for planting trees?
- What did he recommend?
- Why did he believe so strongly that Michigan should have an Arbor Day?

ACTIVITY THREE: The Forest Warden’s Report

(SOC. 1.3 Analyzing and Interpreting the Past; Arts II Creating)

- Ask students to compare the information in the newspaper article from the *Lansing Republican* to the information that Dr. Filibert Roth, the Forest Warden, wrote in his report for the Michigan Forestry Commission in 1903. Compare the places people were planting trees, the number of trees to be planted and their reasons for planting trees.
- Then, ask students to draw before and after pictures of the nursery with and without trees and of a city area listed by Governor Pingree with and without trees.

ACTIVITY FOUR: The Anatomy of a Pine Seed

(SCI. I Constructing New Scientific Knowledge)

Do a science lesson on the anatomy of a pine seed. Pass out page four with the information about “From Seed to Seedling” and the “Types of Pine Cones Processed in the Cone Barn.” Match the diagrams with the written descriptions in the *Time Traveler*.

ACTIVITY FIVE: My Yard

(MAT III. 1 Collection, Organization and Presentation of Data; Arts 2 Creating)

Ask students to examine their yards. If they live in an apartment or condominium, ask them to study the yard around their building, their school or a nearby park. Have them prepare a report based on these questions:

- How many trees did you find?
- How many are conifers?
- What is your favorite tree? Why?
- Describe your favorite tree.
- Draw a picture of your favorite tree. Make it as detailed as possible.

MARCH 30, 1897

ARBOR DAY

Gov. Pingree Issued a Proclamation Regarding it Today.

The annual proclamation in reference to Arbor Day was issued by the governor this morning as follows:

Executive Office, Lansing, Mich., March 30, 1897

In conformity with a custom which has long prevailed in this and other states, and in accordance with concurrent resolution No. 6 approved March 26, 1885, I, Hazen S. Pingree, governor of the state of Michigan, do hereby designate and set apart Friday, April 30, next, as Arbor day and recommend that all public schools, colleges, and other educational institutions, and all the citizens of our great state, do observe the same in an appropriate manner.

I also recommend that the day be devoted to the general planting of trees, shrubs and flowers, to the end that lawns, school grounds, public parks and streets and highways may be permanently enriched and beautified, and that a tree be planted for every member of each family.

Our forests are diminishing, and the increased demand for shade and ornamental trees has caused the organization of associations, the purposes of which are to preserve the forests and educate the people in the science of forestry. These associations deserve commendation, to the end that their number may multiply, so that greater interest may be taken in the subject and something done toward restoring the forestry of the state. I take this occasion to urge better care of shade trees which abound beside our country roads.

H.S. PINGREE, Governor

(Lansing Republican, March 30, 1897)

