

Title of Lesson Plan	How are Forests Managed in Our Region?
Prepared By	Lauren Loizides
City and State	New York, NY
Grade Level(s)	9-12
Keywords (subjects covered)	Forestry, foresters, sustainability, best management practices, ecosystem services
Brief Description	Students visit a “model forest” in our region to examine how water, soil, and forest resources are protected by the use of best management practices in timber harvesting.
Total Time Required	3 hours
Setting	Field trip to a regional “model forest”
Lesson Objectives/Goals	To describe strategies used to sustainably harvest timber. To understand the role of foresters in forest management.
Materials Needed	Map of region including location of forest to be visited.
Standards Addressed	National Science Education Standards Content Standard F: develop understanding of natural resources, environmental quality, science and technology in local, national, and global challenges.
Procedure	<p><u>Introduction</u> Show students a regional map that includes the location of the forest to be visited. Explain to students that they will participate in a field trip to examine forest management at that location.</p> <p>Pose the questions: How can timber harvesting negatively impact water quality, soil, and forest resources? What strategies can be used in timber harvesting to protect water, soil, and forest productivity? Allow students to brainstorm and categorize.</p> <p>Divide class into three groups. Explain that each group will be responsible for recording information about one category of questions and sharing their analysis during whole class discussion following the trip.</p> <p><u>Group categories and questions to address during field trip:</u></p> <p>Group 1: People involved in forest management. Who manages this forest? Describe the roles of foresters, loggers, etc. and the</p>

	<p>ways in which they work together. What tools and techniques are used by foresters?</p> <p>Group 2: Accessing timber. How is timber accessed in this forest? What consideration went into developing landings, logging roads, skid trails, stream crossings, etc? Identify features that are considered best management practices?</p> <p>Group 3: Timber harvesting methods. How is timber harvested in this forest? List and describe the methods used to harvest these trees. What consideration went into making these decisions? What products will be developed from these trees?</p> <p><u>After the field trip:</u> Allow groups to review their answers and choose a presenter to share group results. Presenters then lead discussion on their sub-topic.</p> <p>Teacher poses following questions for reflection: Is this forest management sustainably? Explain. What ecosystem services does this forest provide? Compare your original “brainstorm” list to your notes from the final class discussion. Explain what you’ve learned.</p>
Assessment	Teacher monitors group work and discussion and notes contribution of each member. Teacher collects and evaluates final reflection.
Literature Cited/References	Ideas developed from 2008 teacher tour of Model Forest in Catskill region
Forestry Tour Attended	Northeast 2008

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