

Forest Nursery

Ages: Grades 7 + (adaptable for all ages)

Time: 45-60 minutes

No. of participants: 15+

No. of additional adults: 1+

Required supplies:

- Book: *Journey Through the Northern Rainforest* by Karen Pandell (copied pages)

Objective: To learn more about nurse logs and their role in the forest. To calculate the age of trees.

Lesson Plan Procedures

1. Introduction:

- Take the group to one of the nurse logs we have in the DCC loop.
- Read excerpt from *Journey Through the Northern Rainforest* by Karen Pandell.

2. Main Lesson:

- Today we are going to learn take a look at some of the giants we have living in the Drift Creek forest, starting with this nurse log.
- Allow a few minutes for everyone in the group to take a close look at the nurse log.
- Ask them what they noticed about it.
 - Why might there be so many things growing on it? (The nutrients within the tree can now be used to give other organisms life. - *The circle of life*)
 - Why do you think it's called a nursery/nurse log?
 - What else does this nurse log offer to the forest? (shelter to animals, etc.)
- Explain that this tree would've had to have fallen 100's of years ago because of the size of the other trees growing out of it.
- I want to show you how old trees this size actually are...
 - Take them to look at the tree that fell by Cedarwood.
 - Explain how counting the rings is a way to figure out the age of trees.
 - Count the rings to determine the age of the tree.
- Walk over to the huge tree between Cedarwood and Yamhill.
 - Discuss how old that tree might be in light of the tree you just looked at.
 - Talk about how that tree was probably growing here before Oregon was even discovered by the early explorers. Etc.
- For fun - see how many students it takes to wrap completely around the tree.

3. Conclusion:

- Today you've studied and touched a piece(s) of ancient history!
- What did you learn about the trees in this forest?

* Option for extending the lesson - identify organisms growing on/living in the nurse log using field guides.