

Tree Study

Internet Learning on Trees

University of Illinois Extension
Urban Program Resources Network
Just for Kids Link

Trees Are Terrific/ Travels with Pierre

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/trees1/index2.html>

Dr. Arbor Talks Trees

<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/trees3/intro.html>

This is a good resource available for teaching about trees and the environment. It goes through each season and it's affects on various trees. Great for computer lab set-up.

Maple Tree Facts

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maple>

Maples are important as source of syrup and [wood](#). They are also cultivated as [ornamental plants](#) and have benefits for [tourism](#) and [agriculture](#).

Maple Syrup

The [Sugar Maple](#) (*Acer saccharum*) is a good source of sap. The traditional pancake or French toast breakfast just wouldn't be the same without maple syrup. The process for getting sap is very interesting and somewhat simple. After the sap is taken from the tree it is boiled to produce [maple syrup](#) or made into [maple sugar](#) or [maple candy](#). Syrup can be made from other species of maple trees, but the results are not as good.

Timber

Not only is Maple a good source of sap but it is also valuable for timber. Sugar Maple wood also known as "hard maple", is the wood of choice for [bowling](#) pins, bowling alley lanes, [drums](#) and [butcher's blocks](#). Maple wood is also used for the production of wooden [baseball bats](#), though less often than [ash](#) or [hickory](#). Even guitars are made of maple. Some maple wood has a highly decorative wood grain, known as [flame maple](#) and [quilt maple](#). Maple is considered a [tonewood](#) due to it's ability to carry sound waves and therefore is used in numerous instruments.

Can you name some instruments that maple wood is used in?



Symbolism

The [flag of Canada](#) depicts a stylized [maple leaf](#) and is a prominent [national symbol](#). In the United States, the maple has been adopted by five states as their official [state tree](#). The sugar maple was adopted by [New York](#), [Vermont](#), [Wisconsin](#) and [West Virginia](#). The red maple was adopted as the state tree of [Rhode Island](#). The maple leaf is also the symbol of the online game [MapleStory](#) from [Wizet](#) and [Nexon](#).



Bonsai

Maples are also a very popular choice for the art of [bonsai](#). Bonsai is the Japanese art form used to miniturize normal everyday trees. Some Bonsai trees are 180 years old. Japanese Maple, [Trident Maple](#) (*A. buergerianum*), [Amur Maple](#) (*A. ginnala*), [Field Maple](#) (*A. campestre*) and [Montpellier Maple](#) (*A. monspessulanum*) are popular choices and respond well to techniques that encourage leaf reduction and [ramification](#), but most species can be used.^[1]

Stretch Project

A Maple Syrup Farm Visit:

Visit a Maple Syrup Farm in your area!

Purchase a Bonsai tree at Wal-mart for about \$20. Learn how to care for your bonsai and let this bonsai be part of your troop setting.

Bible Lesson on Trees

Psalm 1:3 (NIV)- “He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”