



Some of these ideas could be incorporated in the Ag Literacy Week reading, *A Tree Farmer...*  
Courtesy of the New York Farm Bureau State Promotion & Education Committee

- "What do we get from trees?" Food, shelter for humans and animals, heat, etc.
- Discussion of trees for erosion control with a look at farmers as caretakers of the soil.
- The illustrations are painted on silk and silk worms need Mulberry leaves (TREES!) to complete their life cycle. Harvest Mulberry leaves from trees to feed silk worm larvae in order to complete the life cycle.
- Connect to local history. Our road is "Mill Valley Road" as there were 13 sawmills powered by the creek. A major ag sector many years ago and still today. Horses were used to pull the trees out of the woods, down the slopes and then to the mills.
- Connect to "toilet paper"... a timber product used by one and all.
- Examine acorns, nuts, cones, apples, maple seeds, etc., all from trees.
- Samples of different kinds of wood - cherry, walnut, maple, etc. (could be done with objects made of these different woods). List items made of wood in classroom, home, etc.
- Different kinds of leaves (may be hard to find in March!)
- Cross section of a tree to examine rings - talk about age.
- Discuss large forests near the school - like Catt. Co has Allegany State Park look at trees around the school (would need knowledge of what bark looks like to identify kinds or count kinds - unless trees are labeled or kind is known by teacher/volunteer)
- A poster to highlight tree facts.
- Adjectives/description words for timber and timber products! Use in a story about trees.
- Word search using tree names, tree seeds/nuts, etc.

Suggestions to have the class "think of a farm" and then expand that vision by inclusion of "tree farms".

Use the video "Ten Questions" from AFBF. A segment is done on timber.

- Cards that you match, all things needed for the "tree chain game". (See Attachment)
- Kirigami: The Ancient Art of Paper Cutting, lesson creates a stylized tree silhouette. (See Attachment)
- Beat a Leaf lesson, introduction of youth to terminology such as photosynthesis and chlorophyll, image of a leaf. (See Attachment)
- Make paper, I am sure there is plenty of info on internet.
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Lessons available at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org) and the "Tree to Table" video by Chris Fesko