

SUBJECT AREAS:

Social science – Economics and Business.

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION:

Mix of lecture, discussion, and group activities.

OBJECTIVES:

Students will be able to identify various ways trees contribute to the economy.

Students will be able to explain the economic value of different tree products and services.

Students will be able to analyze the relationship between healthy forests and economic sustainability.

MATERIALS:

Whiteboard, markers, illustrations of tree products, presentation materials (internet, computers, ppt)

GRADE/LEVEL:

Secondary school (15-18)

DURATION:

Preparation time: 20 min.

Activity time: 25 min.

PLACE:

Classroom, Laboratory

AUTOR:

Civil Society Organization Eco
Logic - Republic of North
Macedonia

The Economic Importance of Trees

INTRODUCTION:

The teacher shows students pictures of various everyday items (furniture, paper, fruit) and asks them to guess the common ingredient: trees. Ask students "Can you think of other ways trees might be economically important?" List their ideas on the board. State the lesson topic.

BACKGROUND:

We often think of trees as environmental wonders, but they also play a crucial role in our economic well-being. Trees provide a vast array of products and services that contribute to jobs, businesses, and overall economic prosperity.

Economic Benefits of Trees:

Forest Products: Timber is a major source of lumber used in construction, furniture, and other wood products. Pulpwood from trees is used to make paper, cardboard, and other paper products.

Non-Timber Forest Products: Forests provide a variety of non-timber products like nuts, fruits, sap (used for maple syrup and rubber), and medicinal plants. These products generate income for local communities and contribute to the food and health sectors.

Tourism and Recreation: Healthy forests attract tourists who enjoy activities like hiking, camping, and nature observation. This tourism industry creates jobs and boosts local economies.

Environmental Services: Forests provide essential environmental services that have economic value. They help regulate water flow, prevent soil erosion, and improve air quality. This reduces costs associated with water treatment, infrastructure repair, and healthcare.

Activity:

Divide the class into small groups and assign each group a specific tree product or service (e.g., timber industry, fruit production, ecotourism). Students will research their assigned topic and answer questions like: What specific products or services are derived from this aspect of trees? How does this industry function? What jobs are created by this sector? What is the economic value of this product or service? Each group will create a short presentation (using visuals if possible) to share their findings with the class.

FUN FACTS:

- *The global forest sector provides jobs for over 30 million people worldwide.*
- *Sustainable forest management practices can ensure a continuous supply of wood products while protecting the environment.*
- *Ecotourism is a growing industry that relies on healthy forests to attract visitors.*

ASSESSMENT:

Class discussion, peer review of presentations

EVALUATION:

Reflect on the effectiveness of the lesson by considering student engagement, understanding of the concepts, and completion of the assessment tasks.