



OUR NORTHERN FOREST

	<p>OUR CHILDREN'S INHERITANCE:</p> <p>What can we do to save it?</p> <p><i>Clear cutting the forest leads to a host of problems:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Devastation of the sub-boreal forest• The erosion of soil affects fishing• The natural habitats of the wildlife is disturbed• The traditions of hunting, fishing and gathering is affected• The traditional medicines that grow in the forest are destroyed• The traditions of Aboriginal people are affected negatively <p><i>The solution:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selective cutting allows the forest to regenerate• Private contracts to individuals would significantly reduce the job loss rate• Wildlife is left largely undisturbed <p><small>Produced by: The Canadian Salt Global Summit Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research Inc. Edmonton, Alberta Canada 955 000</small></p>
	

Clear cutting and attempts to reforest have left sandy soil exposed to erosion

Protesters assemble outside Shadow Lake cross house

Photo Credits: Duglas Leeder, Post-Creaver Pulper July 1997

Know the issues:

- sandy soil is left to the elements of erosion
- reforestation efforts are not working
- the sub-soil organisms have been disturbed

Basic Facts About Forest

- Forests play an important role in the water cycle. Trees are nature's pumps, pulling water out of the soil.
- Forests store huge quantities of water, both in the trees and in the soft spongy soil.
- Trees are nature's sponges that help prevent flooding. They can provide us with energy, paper products and building materials.
- Trees do many good things for the environment. They act as a wind break, preventing soil from blowing away.
- We need to know more information about our forests. If mass cutting is allowed we could lose our forests completely. Imagine the world without forests!
- In Canada, 1 job out of every 15 depends on our forests. Over 350 communities in Canada depend on the forest industry.
- This fact alone, illustrates why we need to protect our valuable resource. Our forest!

Activity 1

Does your community have a recycling program? If no, why don't you start your own program? If your community does have a recycling program - identify how you can support it!

Activity 2

Using the concept of recycling, have your student make paper by tearing paper into little strips. Put the strips of paper in a blender or mash by hand with a potato masher with hot water. Blend the paper and water thoroughly. Pour the mixture on a framed screen. You can stack the screens, allow them to drain off excess water. Use a cloth and press the paper with the use of an iron.

Activity 3

Contact your local forester and arrange to plant a tree. If you live in an urban area why not adopt a tree.

Activity 4

As a class project, have your students interview resource people in the community who are involved in forestry related initiatives or issues.(ie: Conservation officers, Trappers, Elders, Department of Natural Resources representatives etc.)Encourage students to arrange before hand questions that could be used.

Example: How does the forest industry affect your traditional hunting, trapping, fishing?

What conservation methods does the government support when setting the guidelines for harvesting the forest?

When people across Canada heard about the RCMP forces moving in on the blockade on Canada Day they immediately sent in messages of support and demanded that the Saskatchewan government pull the RCMP out.

Various organizations and groups activated their mailing lists and telephone networks throughout Canada to let people know what was happening. these groups included Aboriginal People's organizations, environmental action groups, church organizations, social justice groups and coalitions.

For further information on the Issues on the Northern Forest, please contact the following:

Saskatoon Indigenous Coalition, Phone
(306) 664-1992

Weyhaeuser Canada Limited, Phone
(306) 953-7391

Produced by:



**GABRIEL
DUMONT
INSTITUTE**