



Forests of Washington

Forest History

Activity Guide
Grades 6-9





FORESTS OF WASHINGTON:

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Introduction

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hy do we have to learn this stuff?” “What does this have to do with me?” These questions are muttered by students every year. The challenge lies in helping pupils connect our past, our present and our future in ways that are meaningful.

Washington’s history is woven into its land. The story of the Evergreen State has unfolded in forests more than in marbled halls. **Forests of Washington: Forest History** exists to tell this story to Washington’s Youth.

Using a variety of activities and materials, your students will explore the rich cultural, ecological and social history of our state’s bountiful forests. In so doing, they will gain insight as to how these vast forests have shaped Washington’s history. Decisions and actions made a century ago about our forests still influence land management and use choices today.

For ease of use these materials are divided into five sections. **Section A: Opening Activity**—through the use of a poster, video, and role-playing—sets the stage by offering students a fun and lively historical overview of our forests. A companion booklet for students, *Washington’s Magnificent Forests*, found in Section F, provides additional background information.

Section B: Forest Regions of Washington provides students with a general background of Washington’s four forest regions.

In **Section C: Student Activities** students work in small groups on concentrated projects. Each group explores a historical theme and prepares a display or presentation. If time is a constraint, you may choose one activity for the entire class. Each activity can also act as a catalyst for teachers and students wishing to conduct a more extensive project.

The Closing Activity in **Section D**, a “History Day” fair, calls on students to display and present their projects to the rest of the class. A History Day fair also can provide excellent opportunities for parents, other students and community members to recognize students’ accomplishments.

An **assessment activity** in **Section E** allows students to articulate what they have learned. The poster provided with the curriculum is used for this assessment.

Forests of Washington: Forest History combines reading material, a video, poster and interdisciplinary activities to form learning experiences relevant to students’ lives today. It is our intent to create a path of knowledge through Washington’s forests that lead students from the past to the future they will create.