

## What is a Deciduous Forest?

### VOCABULARY

deciduous trees - **trees that shed their leaves once every year**

shrub - **a bush that grows to about 5 feet above the forest floor**

### DECIDUOUS FORESTS

- In the **autumn**, or fall, leaves of **deciduous** trees change color and fall off the trees.
- Most deciduous trees have leaves that are **broad** and **flat**.  
ex. **oak, maple, elm**

### LEVELS OF A DECIDUOUS FOREST

- The first (bottom) level is the forest **floor**. It is mostly made up of **soil** with dead **leaves, twigs**, and fallen **trees** on the ground. These things slowly **decay** and become part of the soil.
- The second level is the **herb** level. Small **plants** grow on and just above the forest floor.
- The third level is the **shrub** level. This layer is made up of shrubs, or **bushes**, and young **trees** no taller than **5** feet.
- The fourth level is the **understory**. This layer is made up of young **trees** that have grown taller than **5** feet, but are not the tallest trees in the forest.
- The fifth level of the forest is the **canopy**. This is made up of the **oldest, tallest** trees of the forest.

## SEASONS

- Most deciduous forests have a **warm** and **cool** season.
- They need year round **precipitation**.
- Deciduous trees grow on **flat** land or small **hills**.
- The trees grow during **warm** seasons. **Buds** appear in the spring. They become new **leaves** and **branches** and grow fastest during the **summer**.
- The trees rest during the **cool** seasons. In the fall, the **leaves** die and **drop** to the ground. In winter, it is too **cold** for most of the trees to grow.



## DECIDUOUS FORESTS OF THE UNITED STATES

- Most of the **eastern** United States has deciduous forests.
- **3** out of every **5** states in the U.S. has land in the deciduous forest region.
- List 5 states that are in the deciduous forest region
  1. **New York**
  2. **Pennsylvania**
  3. **Ohio**
  4. **Maine**
  5. **Florida**

Video ~ “Indians of North America: Iroquois”

- The Iroquois believed in the power of **peace**.
- The Iroquois lived in the **forests** of the northeast, in present day **New York**, Pennsylvania, and southern Canada.
- The Iroquois was a group of 6 **tribes**, or nations, of Native Americans. These 6 groups were: (\* = original members of Iroquois)
  - \*1. **Mohawk**
  - \*2. **Cayuga**
  - \*3. **Oneida**
  - \*4. **Onondaga**
  - \*5. **Seneca**
  - 6. **Tuscaroras**
- The Iroquois lived in homes made of trees and bark called **long houses**. They ranged in size from **60-100** feet long. They had **2** openings; one was the **door** and the other was a hole in the **roof** to let out smoke.
- The Iroquois were good **farmers**. They were well known for growing many varieties of **corn**.
- At first the Iroquois were generous and helpful toward the **European** settlers. However, the Europeans began taking over the Iroquois **land**, so they were forced to fight back.
- The chief was chosen by the clan **mother** , the oldest woman of each clan.
- The Iroquois told stories with **beads** which were made on **wampum** belts.
- The Iroquois had a government called a **confederacy** which gave each of the tribes an equal say in all matters. These ideas were shared with **Ben Franklin** and parts of these beliefs were later included in the formation of the United States Constitution.

- After the Revolutionary War, the Iroquois were forced to leave their **land**. They moved to the **Six Nations** Reserve, near Buffalo, NY, and many still live there today.
- Some settlers tried to help the Iroquois, especially the **Quakers**, a religious group from Philadelphia, PA. They taught them to **read** and **write**, but punished the Iroquois for speaking their **language** or practicing their beliefs.
- **Handsome Lake**, a brave Iroquois man, helped bring back the traditional beliefs. This is called the **Long House** religion.
- Many Indians of the **east** were forced to move **west** by the government. The Allegheny Seneca were forced to move when the New York government built a **dam** and flooded their village.
- Today, the elders of the Iroquois tribes are teaching the **children** about Iroquois culture, including the **language**, **art**, and **medicines**. The game of **lacrosse** was created by the Indians, and is still played today.

**\*\* To help you remember the 6 Iroquois nations, remember**

**The** (Tuscarora)

**Cow** (Cayuga)

**M** (Mohawk)

**O** (Oneida)

**O** (Onondaga)

**S** (Seneca)

## Internet Research — Temperate Deciduous Forests

Go to **Mrs. Bellen's Web Page** and click on “**Missouri Botanical Gardens**”.

Use the MBG Learning Network to complete the notes below.

- **Click on the maple leaf below the title “Temperate”**
- **Click on “What’s a Temperate Deciduous Forest Like?”**
  1. The meaning of the word deciduous describes exactly what the leaves on these trees do, change **color** in autumn, **fall off** in winter, and **grow back** again in the spring.
  2. Next to the rainforest, the temperate deciduous forest gets the **second** most amount of rainfall per year. In the winter, this is seen as **snow**.
  3. The average temperature of the forest is about **50** degrees Fahrenheit. The average rainfall here in the forest is **30-60** inches per year.
- **Click on “Where Are They Located?”**
  4. Looking closely at the biome map, you’ll see that the temperate deciduous forests are located primarily in the eastern half of the **United States**, in Canada, **Europe**, and in parts of Russia, China, and Japan.
- **Click on “Forest Animals”**
  5. Animals living in this biome must adjust to cold winters and hot summers by **hibernating, migrating, or keeping active** all winter.
  6. *Click on some individual animals.* List 5 animals that live in the deciduous forest: **black bear, gray squirrel, raccoon, white-tailed deer, turkey**
- **Click on “Autumn Leaf Scrapbook”**
  7. *Click on some of the names of leaves listed.* List 3 types of deciduous trees: **maple, elm, oak**

## DECIDUOUS FOREST STUDY GUIDE

### VOCABULARY:

deciduous trees

shrub

lines of latitude

### FROM YOUR NOTES:

- ✓ 5 levels/layers of the deciduous forest
- ✓ Weather/seasons in deciduous forest regions (average temperature/rainfall)
- ✓ Locations of deciduous regions (continents & in U.S.)
- ✓ Examples of deciduous forest animals
- ✓ Examples of deciduous forest trees
- ✓ Facts about Native Americans of the Eastern Woodlands

#### \* Iroquois

- 6 tribes (5 original)
- government
- homes
- food
- traditions