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.
Where are the Deciduous Forests?

VOCABULARY
lines of latitude - used to measure distances north and south of the equator; measured in degrees

THE CLIMATE OF DECIDUOUS FORESTS

- Deciduous forests are located in the middle latitudes.
- Places in the middle latitudes receive rays of sun that are less slanted in the summer than they are in the winter. This makes the deciduous forests warm in summer and cool in winter.
- Deciduous trees grow well in the middle latitudes because they need a temperature of at least 50°F for 6 months at a time.

PRECIPITATION

- Forests need water to grow. They need at least 16 inches of rain or snow each year. Some rain or snow must fall every month for them to grow.
- In summer, forests receive rain. In the winter, forests get snow.

DECIDUOUS FORESTS OF THE WORLD

- Deciduous forests are found on the continents of
  
  North America          Asia
  South America          Australia
  Europe

- Most of the deciduous forests are found north of the equator.
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