

# Maple Syrup - 1.75hrs

Students hike to the "Sugar Bush" and in small field groups, learn to identify trees in the maple family and participate in the process of tapping the tree to collect sap. The groups regather at the evaporator to learn the next step in the process of making maple syrup from the sap. Each student receives a sample of syrup to taste.

---

## Before you go

Inform students that they will be visiting Carpenter Nature Center to learn about the maple syruping, how to collect the sap and boil it down to syrup. As part of the experience students will be able to taste the syrup in a cake cone, so be sure to know which students have food allergies. Remind students that a portion of the time will be spent outside and that they should dress for the weather.

## Timeline

- 0:00-0:30 Introduction—Learn the life cycles of deciduous trees and how that relates to maple syruping , and a brief history of the process
- 0:30-1:25 Practice identifying maple trees and learn how to properly tap a tree
- 1:25-1:45 Learn how to turn sap into syrup and sample some of Carpenter Nature Center's syrup

## After You Leave

Have students create a guide on how to identify maple trees using the various properties discussed in the class.

## Minnesota Standards

Carpenter Nature Center supplements standards by participating in benchmark activities. Listed below are benchmarks that students will participate in but not necessarily master.

### Fourth Grade:

Code	Benchmark
4.2.1.1.1	Measure temperature, volume, weight, and length using appropriate tools and units
4.2.1.2.2	Describe how the states of matter change as a result of heating and cooling

### Sixth Grade:

Code	Benchmark
6.2.1.2.1	Identify evidence of physical changes, including changing phase or shape, and dissolving in other materials

### Fifth Grade:

Code	Benchmark
5..3.4.1.3	Compare the impact of individual decisions on natural systems
5.4.1.1.1	Describe how plant and animal structures and their functions provide an advantage for survival in a given natural system.
5.4.4.1.1	Give examples of beneficial and harmful human interaction with natural systems

