



Time Needed

1 class period

Materials

Blank sheets of white paper (one for each student), markers, and photos of different tree stands (on page 46).

Note: In advance, your teacher may want to examine the trees in the schoolyard to identify potential trees for this activity.

The questions you will answer with this activity are:

1. Why are trees managed differently?
2. What are some of the differences in managed trees versus unmanaged trees?

Before you begin, recall that trees are a valuable resource for the planet. They help to keep the air clean and hold soil in place. Trees absorb and hold carbon to reduce global climate change and provide homes for animals and other plants.

Trees are also renewable, meaning they can be planted, grown, and used for human needs. Some forests are planted and managed to eventually be used for wood products. Examples of wood products include furniture, lumber, and plywood. Any tree could be a source of biofuel, but some trees are better for different needs. Trees in managed areas—plantations, around houses, buildings, or schoolyards—can be groomed to create different forms. A tree farm manager may cut off limbs of trees to make them grow straighter and have fewer limbs. Some tree managers want the tree to have a wide low crown, so the tree will be cut on the top to grow out.

These different forms provide different uses as mentioned before. Straighter

growing trees and trees with fewer limbs on the trunk may be better for lumber or pole products. Trees with many limbs may be used by wildlife for protection. Larger crowns provide a shady place for people and wildlife. Can you think of other forms of trees with different uses? Remember not all trees should be managed by people. Think of natural forests. How do trees grow and look in those areas?

Now, as a class:

With other classmates, brainstorm about how trees are managed in different ways other than for wood products. How are these trees similar or different from trees used for lumber? For example, ornamental trees in a schoolyard or around a home may not have a straight form, like pine trees grown for lumber. However, trees around the school and house need to be pruned and de-limbed so not to damage the house or school. Other trees are managed to provide food, such as fruits and nuts. See how many different things you can identify for which trees are managed.

Activity

1. Go outside. Select a tree and draw the tree's form on your sheet of paper. Focus on limb, crown, and trunk form.
2. If time allows, draw a second tree (preferably a different form) to have a comparison.
3. Inside: Examine the photos on the next page of differently managed trees and compare them with the trees you have drawn.
4. Think about the managed trees in the photos and their uses compared to the trees you drew. Can you guess how your drawn tree might be used and who might use it? Don't forget uses of the tree by wildlife, including mammals, insects, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.



Courtesy of Stephen Fraedrich, Forest Service



Courtesy of Barbara McDonald, Forest Service



Courtesy of Barbara McDonald, Forest Service



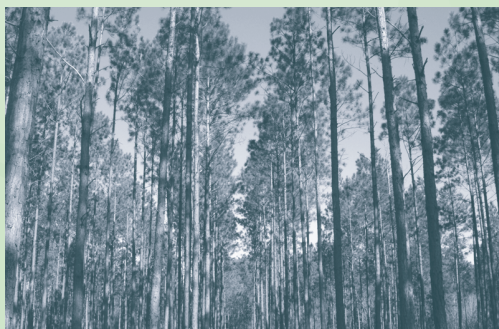
Courtesy of Barbara McDonald, Forest Service



*Courtesy of Howard Schwartz,
Colorado State University,
<http://www.bugwood.org>*



Courtesy of Barbara McDonald, Forest Service



Courtesy of Barbara McDonald, Forest Service

Additional information for the classroom

The title of this article, “How Now Round Crown?” is a take-off on the phrase, “How Now Brown Cow?” This phrase is nonsensical, having no real meaning, but has sometimes been used as a jovial greeting. The phrase was once used to teach rounded vowel sounds for proper public speaking. (From <http://www.phrases.org.uk/>)