

Number 13  
Grades K–2  
Word Count: 646  
Genre: Nonfiction

Background: This Reader helps students learn about forests and some of the benefits they provide. Some of the benefits include providing clean air and water, carbon storage, habitat for plants and animals, timber harvesting, erosion control, recreation opportunities, and aesthetics. To learn more about the benefits of forests, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/>.

Note: For more background information and lesson plans, visit <https://www.naturalinquirer.org> and choose the “For Educators” tab.

All photos are USDA Forest Service images unless otherwise noted.

Pages 1, 5 (playground), and 6 (Black Rock Mountain State Park): Jessica Nickelsen; pages 3, 5 (urban park), 6 (city park), 14 (mule deer), and 16: Preston Keres, USDA Forest Service; pages 2 and 20–21: Cecilio Ricardo, USDA Forest Service; page 4 (child on wooden play equipment): Nissa McKinney; page 4 (Family Forest Landowner sign): Corey Morgan, USDA Forest Service; page 8: Babs McDonald; page 14 (brown bear): Shane Balian, USDA Forest Service; page 14 (yellow-bellied marmot): C. McRae, USDA Forest Service; page 15: Mark Meyer, USDA Forest Service; page 17: Shutterstock; page 18: Alex Weinmann, USDA Forest Service; page 19: Gwen Baluss, USDA Forest Service; page 22: Charity Parks, USDA Forest Service.

Pages 26 and 27: illustrations by Stephanie Pfeiffer Rossow.

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## Be a Possibility Possum

Scientists make things possible;  
They ask and answer questions.  
You can make things possible  
If you follow these suggestions.

Observe your world and wonder;  
Ask how, what, why, and who?  
Ask and answer questions  
To make things possible for you.

Wonder is a good thing;

It is very plain to see.

When I ask and answer questions,  
I make things possible for me.

