

WOOD COOKIE TEACHER TIME ACTIVITY

WOOD COOKIE EXPLORATION:

1. Divide the students in to 4 or 5 groups and give each group a bag of wood cookies.
2. Ask students to look at the wood cookies and make observations about them and discuss their thoughts for a few minutes. Some prompts:
 - How old were the trees that they came from?
 - Are there any markings or odd characteristics?
 - Compare the ring sizes in relation to the age of each tree.
3. Discuss what they found. Ask them:
 - Which trees had the best growing conditions? Why? (larger often lighter rings)
 - Which tree feels the lightest for its size?
 - Do any of your trees look like they have been scarred? What do you think caused that? (scrapes, fire, lightning)
4. Show them the drawings of the four wood cookies and ask them to match the four pictures with the following title:
 - Lightning Strike
 - Dry season or drought
 - Good growing environment
 - Slope or slanted growth

5. Teach and show the parts of a tree:

Bark- Protects the tree from fungus, insects, fire,

Sapwood- (xylem) This part of the tree pumps water up the truck and out to the leaves. In trees it can lift over 100 gallons a day!

Heartwood- The inner core, the strength of the tree, the oldest part of the tree. It holds the truck upright. It used to be alive but now all of its little tubes that used to carry water up and food down are clogged with pitch and resin.

Cambium- (phloem) This is the growing part of the tree, it adds a new ring to the sapwood each year & includes the phloem which brings the food that is made in the leaves down to the rest of the tree.

JOURNAL OPTION:

Have the students use a blank page in the journal to draw a picture and tell the story of the tree their nametag came from.

READ ALOUD:

“While A Tree was Growing”