



February 2021

## The Giant Lumberjack

With footprints big enough to form lakes and an ax large enough to create canyons, Paul Bunyan is known as a very large man. His companion is an equally large blue ox named Babe. Together Paul and Babe are known for their incredible **logging** feats. They would cut trees and clear entire forests with incredible speed.

While, the stories of Paul Bunyan are exaggerated, logging has been a large part of America's history and continues to be important now. However, the trees must be harvested carefully. If humans cut down trees too quickly the forests will not have a chance to regrow and the plants and animals that live in the forest will suffer.

Wood is a **renewable resource**. As

long as these resources are used responsibly, they will always be available. After a tree is cut down, another tree can be planted and grow in its place but this takes time.

We use wood for countless things. Different woods come from different kinds of trees. Pine trees are one of the most commonly harvested trees and are used to make everything from paper to furniture. Maples and oaks are known for their sturdy wood and are used to make furniture and flooring. A quick look around you will reveal just how common wood is in our lives.

In order to ensure that we continue to have healthy forests we must carefully harvest trees to use. We must also leave some parts of the forest undisturbed so that it can be

enjoyed by other plants, animals, and people too! Wood from our forests is an amazing resource and learning about the logging process will help us protect it.

Think about it...

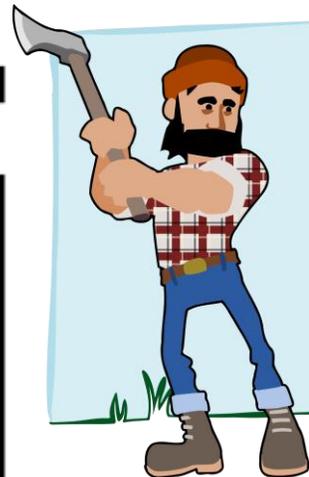
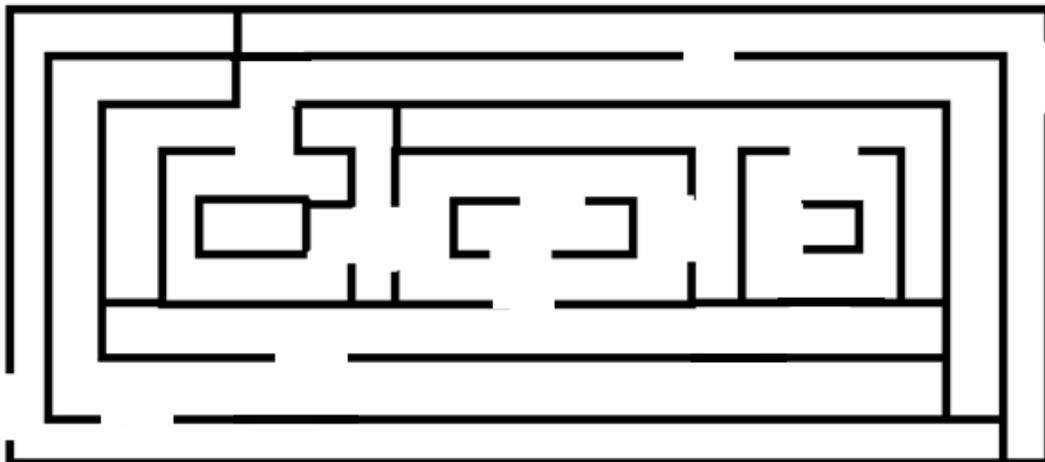
What are three things that you use every day made of wood?

### Definitions:

**Logging:** cutting down trees to use the wood as a building material

**Renewable Resource:** a resource that can be used repeatedly and replaced naturally

## ► Help Paul Bunyan Find His Blue Ox



## ► Featured Plant: Eastern White Pine

Michigan's State Tree is the eastern white pine. This pine can be identified by the number of needles per **fascicle**. The white pine has 5 needles in each fascicle – one needle for each letter in the word W-H-I-T-E.

White pine is a common tree in Michigan forests. White pine is

important to the logging industry. The wood is used as a common construction material. This tree is also very important in our forests. The seeds are eaten by birds and small mammals (Department of Natural Resources).

**Fascicle:** a bundle of leaves or flowers growing together



Photo by [DNR](#)



Photo by [DNR](#)

## ► Featured Animal: White-tailed Deer

Michigan's state mammal is the white-tailed deer. They are the smallest members of the deer family in North America. The male deer grow antlers which they shed and regrow every year. Their name comes from the white coloring on the underside of their tail. They will use their tail to communicate especially when they sense danger.

White-tailed deer are **herbivores**. They browse many different kinds of vegetation depending on what is available. In the winter, when there is less food, they will even eat the needles of the white pine tree (Nature Mapping Program).

**Herbivore:** an animal that eats plants

## ► Try at Home: Twig Picture Frame

Supplies:

- 4 twigs
- String
- Scissors
- Picture
- Hole punch

The full tutorial can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KURHCwF3-AE>



## Bark Scavenger Hunt

### White Bark



### Peeling Bark



### Rough Bark



### Smooth Bark



Tie two sticks together securely to make one corner of the frame. Repeat with the other corners of the frame. Punch 4 holes in your picture and connect to the corners of your frame with more string. Cut off the extra string and enjoy your new frame!



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Please email a clear photo or color scan of your finished coloring sheet (including child's name and age) to Samantha Howard at [howar279@msu.edu](mailto:howar279@msu.edu) by February 20<sup>th</sup>.

► References

Department of Natural Resources. (2021). *White Pine*. [https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79135\\_79218\\_79615\\_86813---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79135_79218_79615_86813---,00.html)

Nature Mapping Program. *White-tailed Deer*. NatureMapping Animal Facts for Kids. [http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/facts/white-tailed\\_deer\\_k6.html](http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/facts/white-tailed_deer_k6.html)