



# Maple Sugar Trees

Virginia's largest producer of maple trees is located in Highland County, in the valley. Each tap yields an average of 10 gallons of sap, which makes about a quart of syrup. Warm sunny days and frosty nights are ideal for sap flow. The maple season may last four to six weeks, but sap flow is heaviest for 10 to 20 days.

## Directions

1. Provide each student with a piece of brown construction paper, a ruler, and a pair of scissors.
2. Have each student create a tree cross section with a 10-12 inch diameter by measuring and marking a horizontal line 12 inches long in the middle of the paper.
3. Find the center mark on their line (6 inches) and measure and mark a vertical 12" line through that mark (forming a +). Connect the outside points of each line by drawing a curved line between them to make a ring. Cut this out. This "tree cookie" shows the diameter of a sugar maple tree that is ready to be tapped.
4. Draw 30-40 tree rings on the tree cookie to represent the age of a tree that is ready to be tapped.
5. Have students use the timeline cards to put the sap to syrup process in order.

## Supplies

- Sap to syrup timeline cards
- Large brown construction paper (12" by 18") one per student
- Rulers
- Scissors

**\*Prior to activity:** Read a sap to syrup story or watch this video with the children:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZ-xrBc3GwY>

## Suggested Books

