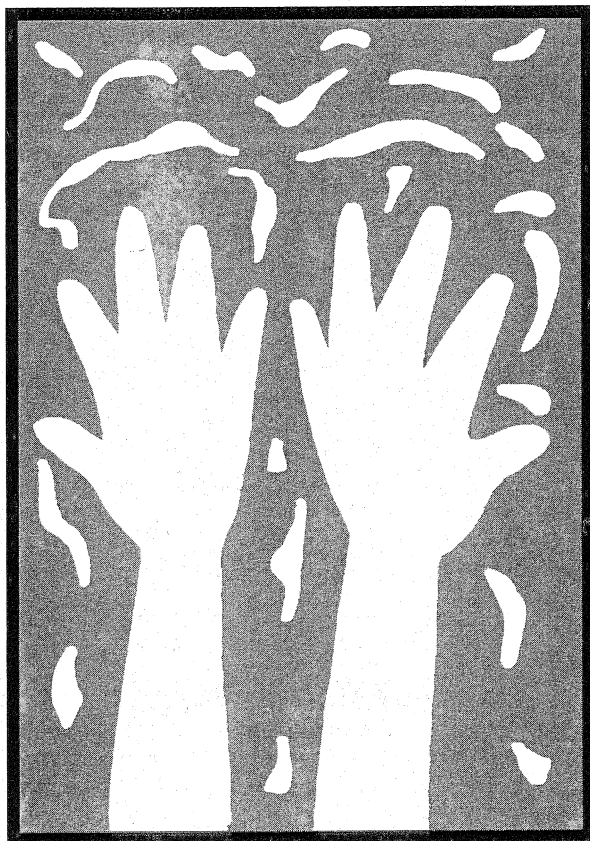


# DISCOVERY GUIDE



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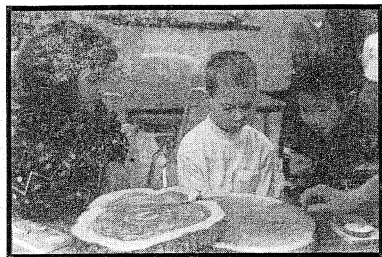
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# PREFACE

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The search for knowledge about a subject should lead to a better understanding of it, a curiosity or desire to

learn more about it, and an attitude of respect and reverence for it. This resource is designed to provide just such opportunities for hands-on dynamic learning experiences on the subject of trees. Simple, fun activities will give educator and student alike the chance to use their senses and imagination to explore the workings of this incredible plant and its interrelationships to the environment and us.

Here in Minnesota, we are richly blessed with the magnificent giants of the plant world. Scan the horizon from your window with the eye of a child: tall, rounded, giant green lollipops stuck in the earth; cone-shaped rocket ships piercing the sky; gnarled and twisted Halloween props; lacy black fingers scratching the winter sky. No matter what the season or shape, we enjoy the abundance of trees' diversity throughout the state.

It would be easy to take these giants of the plant kingdom for granted. But as with all living things, their lives are in fragile balance with the world around them. Lest they become the extinct dinosaurs of their kind, we need to learn about them, how to help preserve their space, and how to live in harmony with them.

The following activities will guide the participant through the WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHY, AND HOWS of Minnesota trees and forests. For the children, let it be a wonderful adventure through the richness of our state's natural resources. For all, let it be the beginning of a journey that will lead to the respect and reverence necessary to live in harmony with the world around us.

The activities will provide the children opportunities to experience, explore, and expand their knowledge base. Within each subject area, activities are grouped as follows: Primary, Intermediate, Advanced to correspond with grade levels K-9. Each grouping blends into the next, allowing educators to pick a variety of activities appropriate for their groups. Cross-referencing to the corresponding background and scientific information is marked as follows: See Chapter X in *Where Are All the Trees? A Minnesota Primer*. Each section includes a bibliography and craft and music activities, if appropriate. Finally, in Unit Four, 16 Minnesota trees are introduced. Use these fact sheets and pictures to help reinforce students' identification skills.

The base information for any scientific endeavor is the same for all, no matter what age. The detail and intricacies of what each child learns depend only on where his or her natural curiosity leads. A preschooler once described a tree as a big stick with leaves on—what an adventure from there to the workings of xylem and phloem and the miracle of photosynthesis. Enjoy the trip! ♣