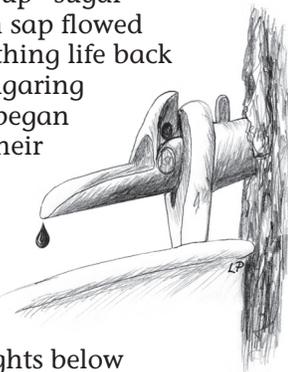


Syrup Stories

Long ago, Native Americans set up “sugar camps” in the early spring when sap flowed from tree roots into trunks, breathing life back into the trees. They knew that sugaring time had arrived when streams began to trickle, animals awoke from their wintry slumber for a stretch, and icicles began to drip. Even the red squirrels knew and pierced the bark to drink the sugary sap. This magic flow inside the tree was (and still is) triggered by cold nights below freezing and warmer days with temperatures pushing above the freezing mark into the 40s.



The Chippewa, Menominee, and Winnebago tribes of the Great Lakes region awaited this time of year for centuries. It meant the harvest of an important and tasty resource. The Native Americans would move their tribe’s people to the sugar camp to harvest the sap. First, they tapped the tree with a spout made from a reed or a hollow twig. Then, they collected the dripping sap in a trough made from hollowed out branches. Finally, they collected the sap in containers and heated it over an open fire until it thickened into syrup or turned to sugar.

One of the best times of the year for most tribes was during “sugaring” time as people came together with family and friends at the maple grove following a long winter. They enjoyed the spring with games, fun, and the harvesting of sap. Syrup was not only a tasty treat, it was also valuable to the Native Americans as a trade item with the early settlers. Eventually, the settlers were taught the traditional ways of making syrup and began producing their own supplies.

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Teacher Tip

The Sugar Maple poster included in this booklet contains information on the tree’s parts and history. It is a great resource for students as they complete the activities on the following pages.

Directions:

1. Use the essay above to help you answer the questions in Section A. Write the answers in the blank squares.
2. Use the answers from Section A to match the letters and numbers in Section B.
3. To help you get started, some of the letters have already been given.

Section A

1. Place where Native Americans harvested sap from maple trees.

				R				
10	14	11	9	24	22	9	13	19

2. In early times, maple trees were tapped with this item, made from a reed or twig.

10	19	16	14	15

3. Native tribes and early settlers did this with maple syrup.

T				
15	24	9	3	23

4. Even animals loved syrup time! This animal licked the sap as it dripped through the bark.

						I				
24	23	3	10	4	14	8	24	24	23	12

5. One of the tribes that participated in maple syruping each year.

6	8	5	5	23	18	9	11	16

Section B

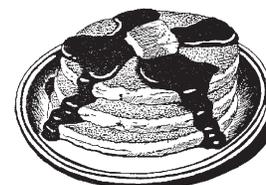
Use the answers from Section A to fill in the letters below to answer the following question:

What did Native Americans use maple sap for?

									K	
10	6	23	23	15	3	24	8	5	21	10

				Y
22	9	5	3	25

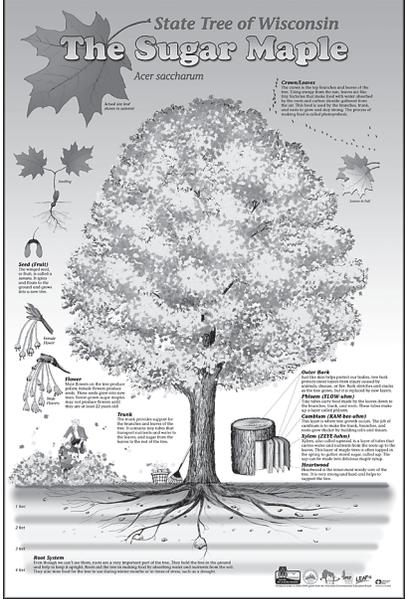
10	25	24	14	19

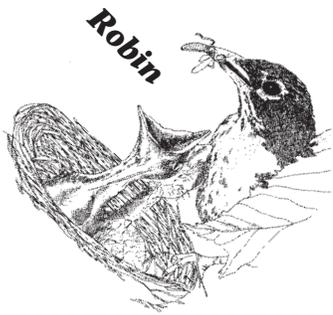
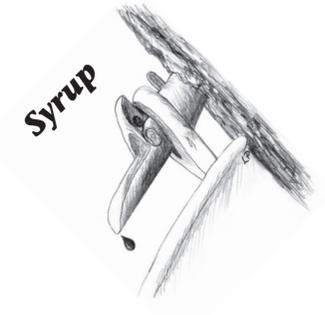


Answers on page 26.

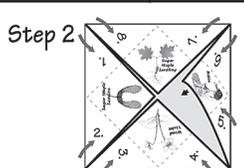


 <p>Seedling</p>	<p>Q. What part of the maple tree is tapped for maple syrup?</p> <p>A. The sapwood, also called the xylem. It carries water and minerals through the trunk.</p>	<p>Q. What do we call the branches and leaves at the top of the tree?</p> <p>A. The crown.</p>	 <p>Samaras</p>
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<h2>Wisconsin Sugar Maple Tree Quizzer</h2>			
<p>Q. Are sugar maple trees deciduous or coniferous?</p> <p>A. Deciduous. Sugar maples drop their leaves in the fall.</p>	 <p>Poster Design and Illustration by Linda Pohlod</p>	<p>Q. What year did the sugar maple become our "official" state tree?</p> <p>A. 1949. The American robin and wood violet also became state symbols that year.</p>	
<p>Q. When do the winged seeds of the sugar maple trees fall?</p> <p>A. In the autumn. They are called "samaras".</p>		<p>Q. Name the important jobs of a tree's roots.</p> <p>A. Roots provide support, anchor the tree in place, store food and absorb water.</p>	

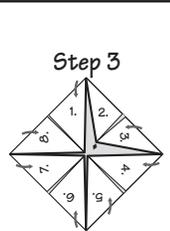
 <p>Robin</p>	<p>Q. How tall can a sugar maple grow?</p> <p>A. 80 to 100 feet or more.</p>	<p>Q. What is a tree's protective outer covering called?</p> <p>A. The bark.</p>	 <p>Syrup</p>
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Step 1
Color quizzer and cut around outside border to make your paper square.

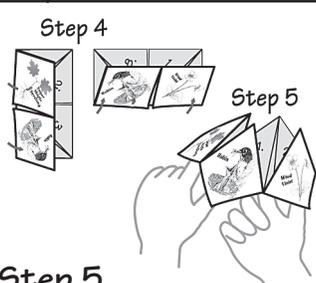


Step 2
Start on plain side. Fold outside corners in to the middle along dotted lines, so pictures show.

Step 3
Turn square over. Fold new outside corners in to the middle.



Step 4
Fold top edge to bottom edge. Crease along middle. Open back up. Fold one side to other side. Crease along middle. Open back up.



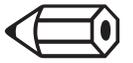
Step 5
Turn square over. Put your thumbs and pointer fingers into the four pockets on back. Do you see Sugar Maple pictures? You're ready to play the game!

- How to play:**
1. Have a friend select a picture from the Sugar Maple Quizzer and count the number of letters in its name. Open and close the Quizzer that number of times.
 2. Have the player pick one of the numbers showing. Open and close the Quizzer that number of times. Open another number and **give the quiz!**





My Favorite Tree Crossword



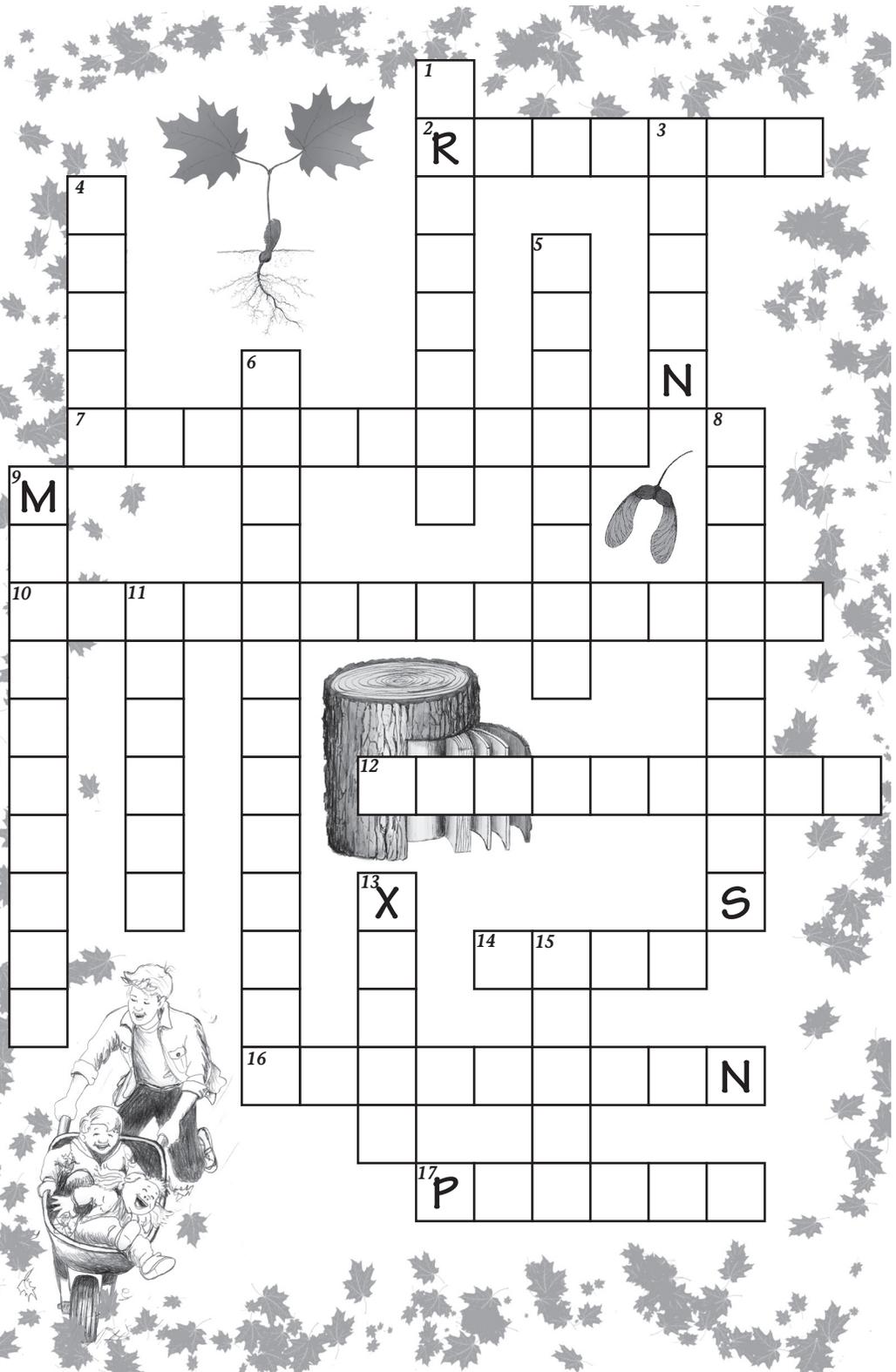
See if you can find the words in this crossword puzzle.

Across

- We do this to newspaper and plastic to help conserve trees.
- Wisconsin's state tree (also the state tree of New York, Vermont and West Virginia).
- The process that leaves use to make food from the sun.
- The inner-most woody core of a tree.
- This covers and protects the tree.
- Trees that keep their leaves year round.
- Tiny tubes that carry food made by the leaves down to the branches, trunk and roots.

Down

- A national holiday where we celebrate trees.
- The name given to the branches and leaves at the top of a tree.
- Holds a tree in place and absorbs water, minerals and nutrients.
- Helps the tree produce food with the help of soil nutrients, carbon dioxide and water. Hint: it's very bright and found in the sky.
- Trees use this gas in the air to help them make food.
- Trees that drop their leaves in winter.
- Delicious product of a maple tree made by boiling its sap.
- Trees release this gas which helps us breathe.
- Another name for sapwood.
- The month of the year when we celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day.



See answers on page 26.

