



February - Week 4

*Our End of Winter
"Relationship with Trees"*

As winter's grip loosens and warmer days become more numerous sap is beginning to flow up and down more regularly in our trees. People begin to tap trees, specifically Maple trees, to collect sap for syrup production. At this time of year prime conditions begin to arise for maple syruping. These conditions include warm days at or above freezing and overnight temperatures falling below freezing. When a tree is tapped, sap passes by the tap (or spigot) as it goes up and again back down thus allowing a great amount of sap to be collected on those days.

On a warmer day, or at least a sunny day this week, examine the trunks and branches of deciduous trees in your neighborhood or school yard. Even trees that have not been tapped may be "leaking" sap out of cracks or scars. The branches or portions of the trunks may look wet and even be a bit slippery to the touch. Document evidence you find by writing and/or drawing in your journal. Are there specific trees, tree species, or certain sides of trees you are noticing sap on? Note the weather conditions on the day or days you observe and also note what the previous days' weather has been.

Consider a field trip to visit a local sugar bush to learn more about maple syruping. Maybe your trip will inspire you to tap a maple tree in your yard or on your school grounds and build your relationship with a nearby maple tree.



Tapping for Maple syrup.