

Project Guide

Learning more about Maple



Activity with an Adult

Real learning takes place through researching a topic you find interesting. You may want to conduct a project on the Maple Industry. The following steps will prove helpful for such a project.

- Begin by developing a **set of questions** for your project. **What do you hope to find out?** These genuine questions are important because they will provide a focus for your project. Your questions may change as you become more informed on the topic and that is fine.

Examples of such questions:

- How does the tree make sap?
 - Which trees make sap?
 - What are the steps involved in making maple syrup?
- Conduct **research**. This means finding out all you can about the topic and finding answers to your questions. Consider all the ways you can learn about the maple Syrup industry; reading, talking/listening, visiting, experimenting, interviewing, and thinking. There are both internet and non-internet sources. Discuss these sources with an adult.
Note: not all sources on the internet are reliable. Discuss this point with an adult.
 - Once you have gathered lots of information, decide how you will present/share your project findings. A meaningful project involves the learner in all aspects of language: listening, speaking, reading, writing and THINKING. Check to see that you are fully engaged and show evidence of each of these areas in your finished project. There is no limit to how you can present what you have learned about the Maple Industry (taped interview, photos, samples, quick facts, something to taste, surprises, drawings, lists, etc.). Your final product should showcase what you have learned and be presented in a manner to interest your viewers.

This website (www.CanadianOrganicMaple.com) has lots of information on this topic. Spend some time investigating the provided content.

For non-internet sources, visit the local library. You may find books, brochures, and videos. Keep in mind that printed sources are continually being published and you will find many great titles. Look for both **information** type books and **narrative**/stories about making maple syrup. Both will provide you with background information on the Maple industry.

Read as much as you can and if the reading is tough, ask someone to read 'to you' or 'with you'.

Another excellent source of information is a person who is experienced in the maple industry. This might be someone who simply taps a tree or trees in their yard or a worker at a large sugarbush. You might find a senior who recalls making maple syrup as a child. It is advisable to prepare a set of questions to gain as much information as possible from such conversations. With permission of the person being interviewed, you might record the conversation.

It would be really exciting (with adult permission and help) to actually tap a tree and collect sap and make maple syrup. Include photos of any such work. **Always include your parents in such planning, visits, and interviews.**

Tip: How about including a tasty maple treat for your audience? This would make yours an interactive project. See recipes at the end of this website for suggestions.

The following Project Reflection can be helpful to review and consider the process you went through when completing this project.

My Reflection on the Project				
	Lots	Some	Very Little	Not At All
I spent time reading about the topic				
I talked to people who knew about the topic				
I listed my sources				
I wrote information in my own words				
I learned about the Maple industry				
I used a variety of ways to interest my audience				

