



WMNC

Signature Lessons & Activities

#1 "PONDEROSA FOREST OF YESTERDAY"

Enduring Understandings

1. Over a century ago, our forest landscape looked much different than it does today.
2. In the past, ponderosa pine forests evolved with fire.
3. Early forests had healthy ecosystems.

Essential Questions

1. Why does the forest landscape of a century ago look so different than the forest landscape of today?
2. How does fire impact the characteristics of a forest landscape?
3. What are the key factors in maintaining a sustainable healthy ecosystem?

By participating in this WMNC lesson:

Participants will.....

- Understand factors that contributed to the dramatic changes that occurred over time.
- Examine how fire is the greatest natural force influencing our forests.
 - Discussing how fires helped to maintain the openness of the forest by clearing away unhealthy trees and brush.

- Understand why Ponderosa forests of yesterday had healthy ecosystems
 - Comparing park-like vistas photographs of an early 1900's Ponderosa forest to a forest of today and discussing the differences and similarities.
 - Discuss the factors that caused significant changes in the Ponderosa forests.
 - Understand the impact of a healthy forest to provide habitat and food for wildlife.
- Use appropriate tools and survey methods to acquire, process, and summarize data to include analysis of historical data

Evidence of Achievement

Participants will.....

- Draw conclusions as to the factors that influenced observable differences in our Ponderosa forest of yesterday and today.
- Capture personal reflections about fire being nature's clean-up crew.
- Personal reflections of the importance of maintaining a sustainable healthy ecosystem.
- Develop an outline of a classroom presentation appropriate for their professional application, including suggestions on how to accommodate diverse learners.