



Forestry in the Classroom Step by Step

1. Review Florida Forests Week toolbox on the Association website at FLForestry.org/programs/florida-forests-week/.
 - a. Pick your school(s).
 - Your child's, grandchild's, or employee's school.
 - Near your office or home.
 - Where you know a teacher who is interested in forestry.
2. Contact principal(s) in spring.
 - a. Confirm you don't have to notify other offices (Board of Ed.).
3. Contact teacher(s) in spring and fall.
 - a. Spring for general agreement/Fall for confirming month & day.
 - b. Confirm number of classes and number of students.
 - c. Confirm availability of audiovisual equipment if needed.
 - d. Review your & teacher's requirements.
4. Create your team(s).
 - a. 1 landowner—1 forester.
 - b. If more than one team, consider scheduling a briefing session.
 - c. Schedule events/assignments leading up to presentations.
5. Prepare your message.
 - a. Fourth graders need to hear a "story."
 - b. You and teammate know about: Growing/harvesting trees.
 - c. Find out what they know about "forests" and "trees."
 - d. Include some basic descriptions of parts of trees.
 - e. What do trees do for us?
 - f. Why do we need them?
 - g. Talk through a tree farm's life cycle—site prep through harvest.
 - h. Pictures/slides of these steps can help.

6. Make your box.
 - a. Use a Banker's Box.
 - b. Consider getting help to design your box lid.
 - Your children/grandchildren.
 - 4-H or FFA groups.
 - Be creative with wildlife models, painted stream & fencing.
 - Punch holes for your rows of "trees" (pencils from FFA).
 - Load it with "Goods from the Woods."
 - Assure you have enough "Goods" for the size of the class.

7. Alert the media (optional).
 - Only offer this type of story to smaller, almost neighborhood newspapers and TV stations in smaller towns where this kind of event would be considered human interest "news."

8. Present!
 - 4th-graders are *eager* to hear this story.
 - 4th graders are the perfect age/audience for this story.
 - Agree with your partner on who says what—but be flexible.
 - If a student wants to pursue a statement, that's OK – but don't let it bog down your presentation.
 - Be careful that you don't get too detailed with facts.
 - Try to be as enthusiastic as the students!
 - Introduce the "Team" and begin to tell "the story of the tree."

 - Close with "The Box!"
 - One by one, call a student to "The Box."
 - Ask them to pick a product they use daily or need.
 - Some students dawdle with their choice and might need to be encouraged to pick one.
 - Arbitrarily decide how many "trees" that item requires.
 - Ask the student to "harvest" that number of trees.
 - Assure all students get a chance to "harvest" the stand.
 - Make sure to "replant" at the end to reinforce the idea of sustainability.
 - Present any handouts and "gifts" to the teacher.