

# MIDDLE SCHOOL FORESTRY OCCUPATION

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The purpose of the Forestry Occupation is to gain a greater understanding of the physical and biological features of the forests of southern New England. The Occupation includes aspects of forest management, history, botany, contemporary forest management techniques, and a "citizen science" field study. The unit culminates with the students collecting data on 10m x 10m plots established in the forests of Millstream Farm; these findings and data are uploaded into a regional database for participation in the Harvard Forest Program, *Our Changing Forests*. The ultimate goal of this Occupation, addressed over a three-year cycle, is to develop a comprehensive forest management plan for the forest at Millstream Farm. The key lessons for year one are as follows:

Forest Management

North American Pre-History

Connecticut's Forests: history, types, uses, disturbances, etc.

Plant Biology (botany): cells – chloroplasts, photosynthesis, respiration, and the Calvin Cycle

The Vascular System: structures of the tree - roots, trunk, crown, and dendrochronology

Succession and Disturbance

Measuring the Forest - an introduction to site inventory

Data Collection on Harvard Forest plot

As part of this study, the students visited Sessions Wood in Burlington, CT. Additionally, they visited E.R. Hinman & Sons, Inc. Established in 1830, it is one of the oldest sawmills in Connecticut. Thank you to Alumni Parent, Lorri Chapman, for lending her time and talent to this Occupation.

