

# Activity 5



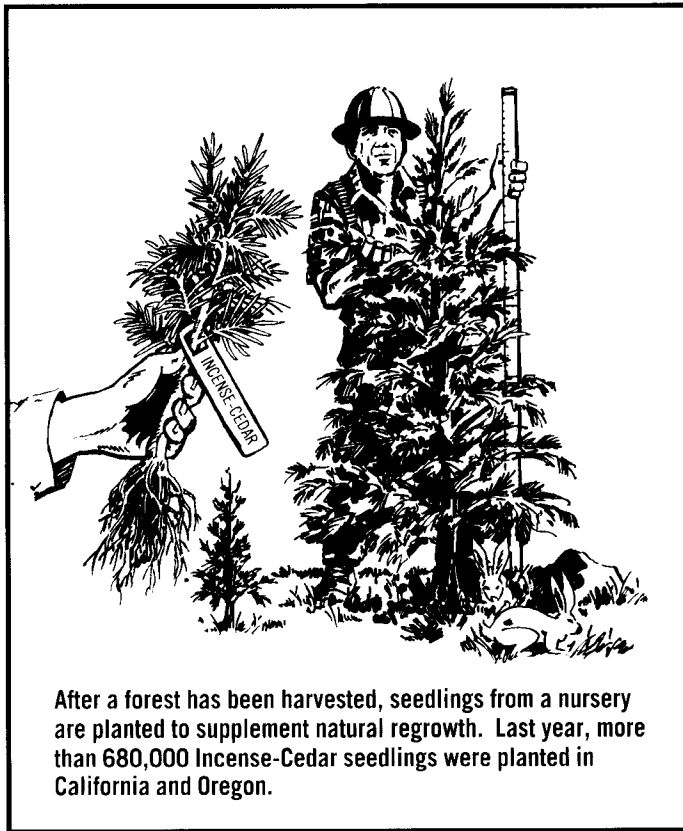
## WHAT IS A SUSTAINED-YIELD FOREST?

**PART I:** Trees are a beautiful part of our world, and they are also very important natural resources. For instance, we use them for shade and for climbing. We also use them to build houses and bridges, and to make things like paper and pencils.

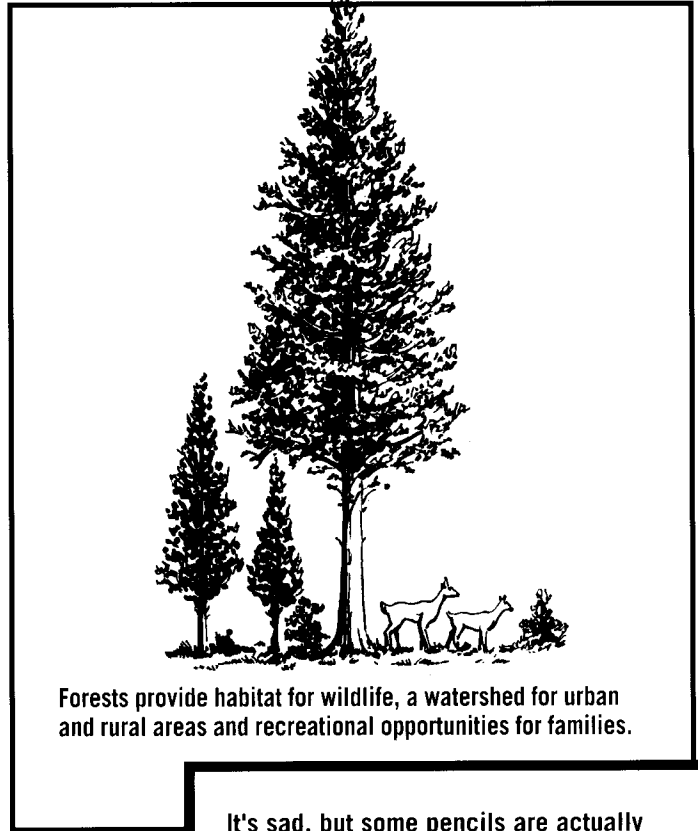
Wood is a renewable resource, because when trees are harvested, new seedlings are planted (in addition to naturally regrowing seedlings) to take their place. This process, called **reforestation**, is what takes place in a **sustained-yield forest**. Sustained-yield means that the forest managers are not harvesting anymore trees than they are growing. This way,

there will always be plenty of trees available in the future.

In the United States, almost all of our forests are protected by laws which require sustained-yield management. Unfortunately, some countries do not protect their forests as well. In the tropical rainforest countries, more than one-half of the original forest has been destroyed. Many tropical rainforest countries do not plant new trees when they cut down their forests. And even when they do, the high heat and constant rainfall tend to wash away the soil and nutrients making it difficult for new trees to grow.



After a forest has been harvested, seedlings from a nursery are planted to supplement natural regrowth. Last year, more than 680,000 Incense-Cedar seedlings were planted in California and Oregon.



Forests provide habitat for wildlife, a watershed for urban and rural areas and recreational opportunities for families.

**PART II:** How long do you think it takes for a tree that provides wood for houses, such as the Douglas Fir, Redwood or Incense-Cedar, to grow large enough for harvest (50-100 feet)? How long does it take for these trees to grow to just 5 feet high. Write your answers on the back.

**PART III:** There are some 730 million acres of forested land in the United States today, the same amount as we had in 1920. Guess what ten states have the largest areas of forest? Write your answers on the back.

It's sad, but some pencils are actually made from tropical rainforest wood.

One way you can be sure that your pencils are made from sustained-yield wood grown in United States forests is to look for the logo (right)



Also, some pencil boxes have labels that say "Genuine Incense-Cedar... A Renewable Resource" or "Contains No Tropical Rainforest Wood."