

Tree Identification at East Greenwich High School

Objective:

To examine and identify ten different tree species in the environs of the E.G.H.S grounds.

Materials:

Tree I.D. Key and tree terminology handout.

Procedure:

Using the tree I.D. key provided, or a similar resource, select and identify ten different trees from the environs of EGHS. Record your findings and keep a leaf sample to be included in your report. Each student needs to have their own collection.

Results:

Record the common and scientific names of the ten tree species you identified. Attach a sample of each (they can be glued, taped, stapled or laminated) and answer the following questions.

1. List the benefits that trees have to the environment and to humans .
2. What difficulties did you have in identifying the tree samples?
3. Which tree was the easiest to identify? Why?
4. Of the trees you identified, which are evergreens?
5. Describe the leaf terminology for each tree you identified.
6. What factors cause trees to be located where they are?
7. How does a tree differ from a shrub?
8. How many trees are native to the United States?
9. What is the dominant tree species in Rhode Island?
10. Most (if not all) of the trees you identified are endemic, indigenous or native to RI, however, some may be an introduced or exotic species. Are any of the trees you identified an exotic specie? If so, which ones and where are they native to?

Conclusions:

1. What would you conclude about the diversity of trees in the grounds of EGHS compared to those offered in the Northeast Region Identification Tree.? Compare your findings with the following RI tree list:

Pine Family

Eastern hemlock, *Tsuga canadensis*
 White pine, *Pinus strobus*
 Pitch pine, *Pinus rigida*

Cypress Family

Atlantic white cedar *Chamaecyparis thyoides*
 Eastern red cedar *Juniperus virginiana*

Walnut Family

Mockernut hickory *Carya tomentosa*
 Pignut hickory *Carya glabra*

Beech Family

American beech *Fagus grandifolia*
 American chestnut *Castanea dentata*
 White oak *Quercus alba*
 Black oak *Quercus velutina*
 Northern red oak *Quercus rubra*
 Scrub oak, Bear oak *Quercus ilicifolia*

Birch Family

Ironwood, Muscledwood, *Carpinus caroliniana*
 Yellow birch, *Betula alleghaniensis*
 Black birch, *Betula lenta*
 Gray birch, *Betula populifolia*
 Common or Smooth alder, *Alnus serrulata*

Willow Family

Big-toothed aspen, *Populus grandidentata*
 Quaking aspen, *Populus tremuloides*
 Black willow, *Salix nigra*
 Weeping willow, *Salix babylonica* (introduced)
 Pussy willow, *Salix discolor*

Dogwood Family

Flowering dogwood, *Cornus florida*

Maple Family

Norway maple, *Acer platanoides* (introduced)
 Sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*
 Sycamore maple, *Acer pseudoplatanus* (intro)
 Red or swamp maple, *Acer rubrum*

Rose Family

Wild black cherry, *Prunus serotina*

2. Are the trees of EGHS representative of the flora of Rhode Island?