



Thank you for teaching about the watershed! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at our office or by phone.

Silver Maple Benefits

This game will teach students what benefits silver maple trees provide and why we are planting them in the watershed. The game is a relay race with no prize except gaining knowledge!

Preparation: Take out 3 Tupperware containers of props. Divide all props so each container has one of each prop. Set containers out on ground, with a hula hoop about 10-15 meters away, relay race style. Have students split into 3 teams and line up behind hula hoops.

NWAI is working on a restoration project on the Marysville Flats, with the goal of returning the flats to their original silver maple floodplain forest ecosystem. Explain to the students that we plant silver maples because they perform many beneficial tasks for the environment. Take one Tupperware and hold up each item, discussing the value that it represents. After you've discussed all of the values, hold up the items and have the students tell you what they represent. Once they have done this, they're ready for the relay race! They line up behind the hula hoops, you stand by the tupperwares, and you call out a value. They have to run to the Tupperware, find the corresponding item, and bring it back to deposit in their team's hula hoop.

Benefits and props: Silver maple trees...

- Provide a place for animals to raise young (pacifier)
- Provide a home for many animals (birdhouse)
- Provide food for animals (apple sauce)
- Absorb water and prevent flooding (sponge)
- Stabilize soil/prevent erosion (glue stick)
- Shade water and reduce water temperature (umbrella)
- Produce oxygen and filter the air (balloon)
- Filter and clean runoff before it hits the river (soap)