



# My nature connection

WHERE'S ALL  
THE WHITE PINE?

GRADES: 3-8  
TIME: 45 MIN



Did you know? White pine is present in over 1,000,000 acres in Minnesota.

## LOGGING IN MINNESOTA

### INTRODUCTION

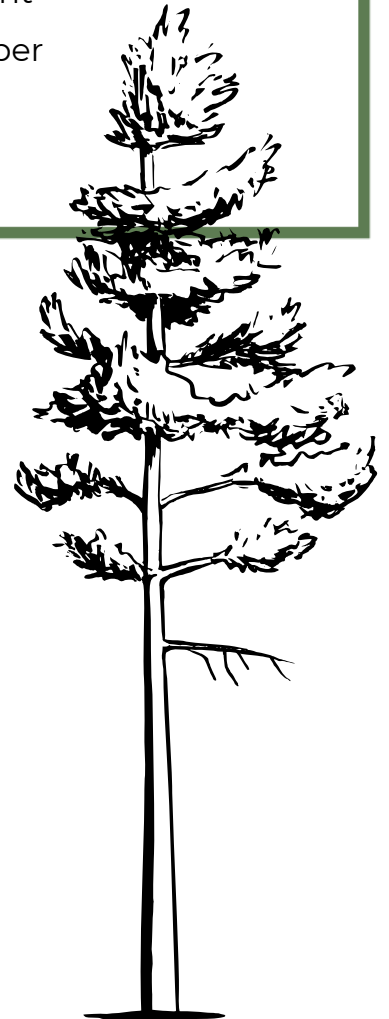
Minnesota's history contains some of the most dramatic logging histories in the country. We have trees that grow taller than most buildings and a healthy forest perfect for creating structures out of our Northwoods logs.

Once loggers chopped down all the rich resources from Maine to Wisconsin, they needed new land to harvest trees. Little was known about Minnesota, and our beloved north shore was nicknamed "Abundant Pines" by loggers. It was seen as a moneymaker, as there were trees that stretched miles and miles.

*"As I stood upon the brow of Embarrass Hill...one of the grandest sights I ever looked upon was in view, a veritable ocean of pine. One could see for miles and miles in nearly every direction over the tops of the tall waving forests of virgin pine and a variety of other trees. I will never forget that sight or the impression it left upon my mind, as I stood there gazing upon this wonderful forest...inexhaustible, enough to last for ages as I thought at that time, yet within the course of a very few years not to exceed fifteen, this great forest was laid bare, leaving only a few scattering stands of pine in patches here and there." -Richard Griffin, seeing northern Minnesota's pine forests for the first time in the winter of 1891*

### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- pine needles
- rubber band or string
- sticks
- paint
- paper



## WHERE'S ALL THE WHITE PINE?

White pines have an essential function in the ecosystem, in addition to their size and attractiveness. They thrive in a variety of woodland settings, particularly in Minnesota's northeastern portion. White pines did not cover Minnesota when European settlement began, but they were scattered across the terrain in tiny groves alongside red pines or as single, dominating trees.

Loggers came to this area because of the white pine. The logs floated like a cork because of how soft they were, making it another Important staple in the logging industry. They are known to be the softer of the pines, so loggers liked to saw through these because they cut like butter. Back in the 1860s, they didn't have fancy saws or machines to cut; it was a two-person job. So, the softer the wood, the less energy spent cutting a tree, and the more lumber produced in a day.

During this period, loggers felled enough trees to fill over 240,000 freight cars. Minnesota's harvesting lumber companies racked up over \$1 billion dollars by 1910, making them the leading lumber companies in the country.



## Make your own pine tree paintbrush

Follow these steps to create your very own pine needle paintbrush! All you will need is a rubber band or string, pine needles, and a twig.



**Step 1:** Gather twigs, needles, and string or a rubber band.



**Step 2:** Wrap pine needles around the tip of the stick.



**Step 3:** Tie your string or rubber band around the needles and stick, and then you're done!



This nature paint brush offers texture like you've never seen before.

## CONNECTING WITH QUESTIONS

What did you learn today that you didn't know before?

Can you spot a white pine In the wilderness?

How did logging change Minnesota's history?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://www.mnhs.org/foresthistorylearn/timeline>

<https://unsplash.com/s/photos/white-pine>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/treecare/whitepine/index.html>

## SURVEY FEEDBACK

Please help us and give us your feedback.

[campfiremn.org/mynatureconnection](http://campfiremn.org/mynatureconnection)