

**Lesson: Journey of a Tree**  
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Overview: Students conduct research at a local Christmas tree farm to find out information regarding the farm itself and where and how the trees are shipped.

Grade Level: 3

Time Frame: 2 days

National Geography Standards:

- #1 - Using maps to report information from a spatial perspective
- #8 - The characteristics and spatial distribution of ecosystems on Earth's surface
- #11 - The patterns and networks of economic interdependence on Earth's surface

Oregon State Standards (3<sup>rd</sup> grade benchmark):

Math: Collect, organize, display and describe simple data using graphs

English: Connect reading selections to other experiences, issues and events

English: Communicate knowledge of the topic including relevant examples and facts.

Geographical Question:

- #1 - What are the best environments (slope, altitude, climate, proximity to markets, etc.) for growing Christmas trees?
- #2 - Where are the major markets for Oregon Christmas trees?
- #3 - What means of transportation are used to ship the Christmas trees?

Objectives: The students will be able to:

1. generate questions concerning the location, environmental conditions, proximity and access to transportation, and markets of a local Christmas tree farm.
2. create a survey and interview the tree farm owner.
3. organize, display (using maps and graphs) and analyze the survey results.

Materials:

1. Rogow, Zack. (1988). Oranges. New York: Orchard Books.  
ISBN – 0-531-05743-7.
2. Blank map of the world
3. Grid paper
4. For field work at tree farm:
  - Permission slips
  - First Aid kit
  - Volunteer chaperones
  - Transportation
  - Journals/pencils for each student
  - Clipboards
  - Interview questions (one question per student)

### Introduction:

1. Actively read the book “Oranges” to the class, relating the story to the students’ lives. Ask them: what are some crops we grow in Oregon that get shipped to other regions of the world?
  - Grass seed
  - Fruits, vegetables
  - Mint
  - Christmas trees

### Procedure:

1. Tell students they are going to conduct fieldwork at an actual Christmas tree farm. Lead a brainstorming session where students generate a variety of questions they might ask a Christmas tree farmer regarding transportation, location and cost issues.
2. Each student will be responsible for asking at least one question at the tree farm.
3. At the site, students conduct research. They will also take a tour of the tree farm, noting any observations that they make in their fieldwork journal.
4. Upon returning, discuss the fieldwork findings. Students will then use the information provided by the Christmas tree owner to create a map showing the distribution of trees to other areas of the world.
5. After completing the map, students will answer, in writing, “What are the best environments (slope, altitude, climate, proximity to markets, etc.) for growing Christmas trees?”
6. On a sheet of graph paper, students will graph the distribution of trees (final destination or market).

### Assessments:

1. Score map, graph and writing against attached scoring guides.

### Extensions:

1. Identify trees at the site, comparing them with other trees.
2. Study the lifecycle of trees.
3. Study the parts of a tree.
4. Research the importance of trees in our world/environment. Look at uses and environmental issues.
5. Write letters to attach to trees that will be shipped to other areas in the world.
6. Draw a tree using various mediums.
7. Write a poem about trees.

## Map Scoring Guide

	<b>Has</b>	<b>Doesn't Have</b>
1. Title	_____	_____
2. Orientation	_____	_____
3. Date	_____	_____
4. Author	_____	_____
5. Legend	_____	_____

\*\*\*Breakdown of score:

- 5- All five criteria have been met and at least five routes have been mapped.
  - 4- Four criteria have been met and four routes have been mapped.
  - 3- Three criteria have been met and three routes have been mapped.
  - 2- Two criteria have been met and two routes have been mapped.
  - 1- One criterion has been met and one route has been mapped.
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## Writing Scoring Guide

- 4- Answer is complete and includes information about slope, altitude, climate, and proximity to markets.
  - 3- Answer only tells information about 3 of the four considerations.
  - 2- Answer only tells information about 2 of the four considerations.
  - 1- Answer only tells information about 1 of the four considerations.
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## Graph Scoring Guide

- 4- Graph is clear and correctly displays all of the major markets for Oregon Christmas Trees (x-axis) and shows their distribution (y-axis).
- 3- Graph is somewhat clear but only displays most of the major markets and their distribution.
- 2- Graph is not very clear and only displays some of the major markets and their distribution.
- 1- Graph is not clear and only displays a few of the major markets and their distribution.