

LOGGING THE FORESTS

There is increasing debate over whether forests in Canada should be protected or should be used for logging. Environmentalists and logging companies have very different opinions, and have many arguments to support their points of view.

Logging companies have many reasons for wanting to cut down trees. First, they say that no other material is as useful as wood. Trees are the raw material for the wood that is used to make paper, build furniture, and construct houses. Also, logging companies argue that Canada would need to import expensive wood from other countries if they do not use Canadian forests. In addition, logging companies stress that they give jobs to thousands of Canadian people and make millions of dollars each year for economy of Canada. Furthermore, these logging companies point out that wood is renewable. Every tree that is cut down can be replaced through replanting. For all of these reasons, logging companies want to cut down Canadian forests.

Environmentalists claim, however, that the forest industry is destroying the natural environment of Canada. Logging is bad for both the plant and the animal life in the forests. Trees help protect the soil from erosion and they provide habitats for many forms of wildlife. Many species of plants and animals can only be found in these wilderness areas and they will probably become extinct if logging is allowed to continue. Moreover, forests supply the polluted world with fresh oxygen. Also, forests provide people with a lot of recreational activities such as hiking, camping, and bird watching. All of these reasons explain the need to protect Canada's forests.

In summary, while cutting down trees gives jobs to Canadians and economic growth to our country, the costs to the environment are too high. Furthermore, although we can choose to use building materials other than wood, we cannot choose to use a natural environment other than the one we have. In conclusion, then, I strongly recommend that the forests of Canada should be protected.

Anticipation Guide

	Before Reading	Statement	After Reading	Evidence from Text
1	<i>Agree</i> <i>Disagree</i>	Canada has lots of trees. We do not need to worry about running out of trees.	<i>Agree</i> <i>Disagree</i>	
2	<i>Agree</i> <i>Disagree</i>	Giving people jobs is more important than protecting the environment.	<i>Agree</i> <i>Disagree</i>	
3	<i>Agree</i> <i>Disagree</i>	Cement and steel are better building materials than wood.	<i>Agree</i> <i>Disagree</i>	
4	<i>Agree</i> <i>Disagree</i>	People should not think about the rights of animals when deciding where to live.	<i>Agree</i> <i>Disagree</i>	
5	<i>Agree</i> <i>Disagree</i>	Humans would not be able to live without trees.	<i>Agree</i> <i>Disagree</i>	
6	<i>Agree</i> <i>Disagree</i>	Canada's environment is beautiful and should be protected by the government.	<i>Agree</i> <i>Disagree</i>	