

Woody B. Woodland Presents: Working the Day Away



Directions: Read this story aloud with a parent, guardian, or friend. Work together to answer the questions on the last page. Tear the homework sheet out and return to your teacher to win a special prize!

Hi! My name is Woody B. Woodland and I am a member of the Woodland Family. The Woodland Family includes many different types of trees, with many different specialized jobs that benefit the planet and you, the human! Listen to my tale of the Woodland Family and try to answer the questions at the end of the story (Go on! Take a look). Are you ready? Here we go!

The Woodland Family lives in the Scituate Reservoir Watershed, which includes the Rhoody towns of Scituate, Foster, Glocester, and a wee piece of Smithfield, W. Johnston and Cranston. Many of my cousins live on land owned by Providence



Water, but I live in Steward Gardener's Backyard. Together we contribute to the family business, a unique water purification system that can only be provided by trees like us.

Our family business, *Woodland's Water Purification Service*, is one of the most important water

cleaning services in the State of Rhode Island. My family is responsible for keeping your communities drinking water clean so that your family, neighbors and people living in RI, all the way into Providence and Barrington can rely on having safe drinking water.

I really love my job because everybody wins: water needs me to keep clean and I need water to survive. I am a good friend to clean water. Clean water and healthy forests go hand in hand and that makes my community a very happy one.

When water leaves *Woodland's Water Purification Service*, it travels to the Scituate Reservoir. It has been found to be one of the cleanest water supplies in the whole United States of America. Everyone is saying that my family helped Providence Water to get that honor—we are so proud!

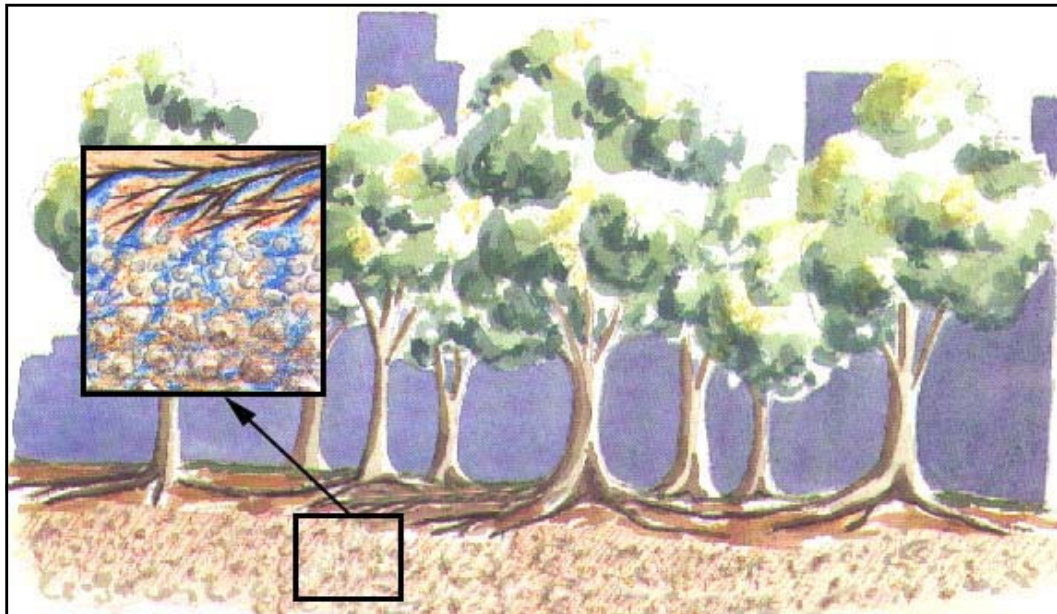
WOODLANDS WATER PURIFICATION



"It's better than bottled!"

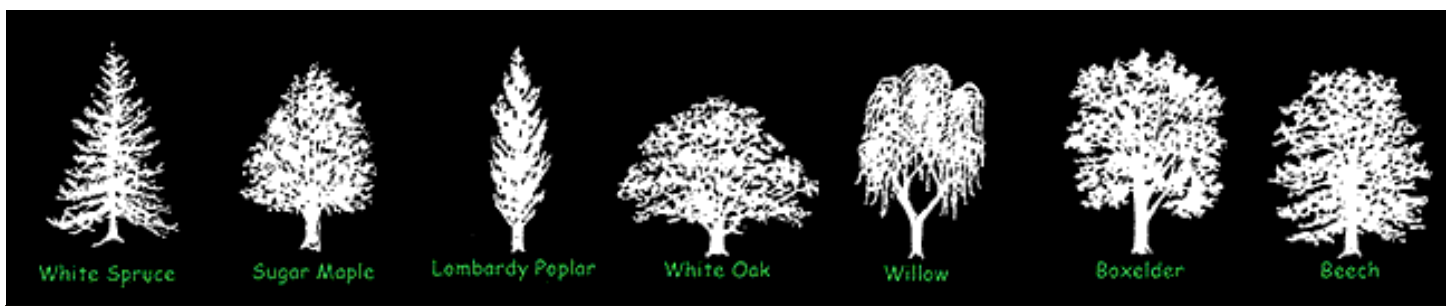
Just like you have family and friends to help you do things, I also need lots of help to do my job. I depend on my brother and sister

trees all throughout the Watershed—together our roots mingle and hold soil in place stopping erosion from entering the water while we filter out pollutants that mix with rain water when it lands on the ground, like road salt, oil & gasoline, and animal waste. Without us, all of these pollutants would wash right into our waterways without being treated. Could you imagine a land with no trees? Only parking lots, houses, and buildings? There would be no one left to run *Woodland's Water Purification Service*.



Tree roots hold soil in place and help to remove pollutants from rainwater before it reaches our drinking water sources. Everyone wave hi to the Woodland's! Hi, Mom! Hi, Dad!

The Woodland Family isn't only in the business of clean water; we provide all sorts of services that keep our environment healthy and happy. My branches provide shade that keep the forest and streams cool in summer's heat while at the same time providing homes for birds and squirrels. I also produce acorns for squirrels and wildlife to eat. When all my friends and family live together we



CLUE 1: "My branches provide shade that keep the forest and streams cool in summer's heat."
(Hint: What shapes would be best for shade?)"

make a great habitat for lots of plants and animals. Human families love to visit our homes on quiet Saturday afternoon hikes. They explore all the varieties of trees the Woodland Family is made of.



CLUE 2: I Produce Acorns!

So which variety am I? Listen closely. I have rounded leaves and inside my trunk are 8 circles, one for each year I have been alive. I am already 9 feet tall but I will grow to be just like my great grandfather—He is 80 feet tall and 20 inches wide! Grandpa and I are a type of tree that grows to be one of the biggest and oldest. He has 90 circles inside his trunk because he is 90 years old.

My friends Cottontail Rabbit and Bobolink Bird were really glad to hear that Steward is going to manage the forest to promote the family business and keep the Woodland's productive and prosperous. This means that Cottontail, Bobolink, and all our woodland friends will benefit! Steward is opening up some of his old fields and leaving piles of brush on the forest floor to provide them with comfortable shelter. I'll also have my own space! Steward will make sure I get plenty of sun because I am a strong straight tree with a lot of potential, so naturally I need room to grow! Some of the Woodland's are not good timber 'cause they didn't grow straight, but Steward still values them and puts them to work too. They are going to do their part and help heat Steward's house this winter. And Sabrina Sugar Maple will deliver gallons upon gallons of raw sap to Steward this winter to make maple syrup. Mmm..... Little Steward just loves the syrup on a stack of Mama Stewards hot-off-the-griddle flapjacks—I told you we Woodland's have a sweet job!

Even though my job is really fun, there are a few things I need to be on the lookout for.

I heard Steward saying that he is worried about the next generation of the Woodland family. Those Bullies, the Invader Family, have been aggressively taking over some of our territory, reducing the space we have to live, taking our resources, and jeopardizing the next generation of Woodland's! Keep on the look

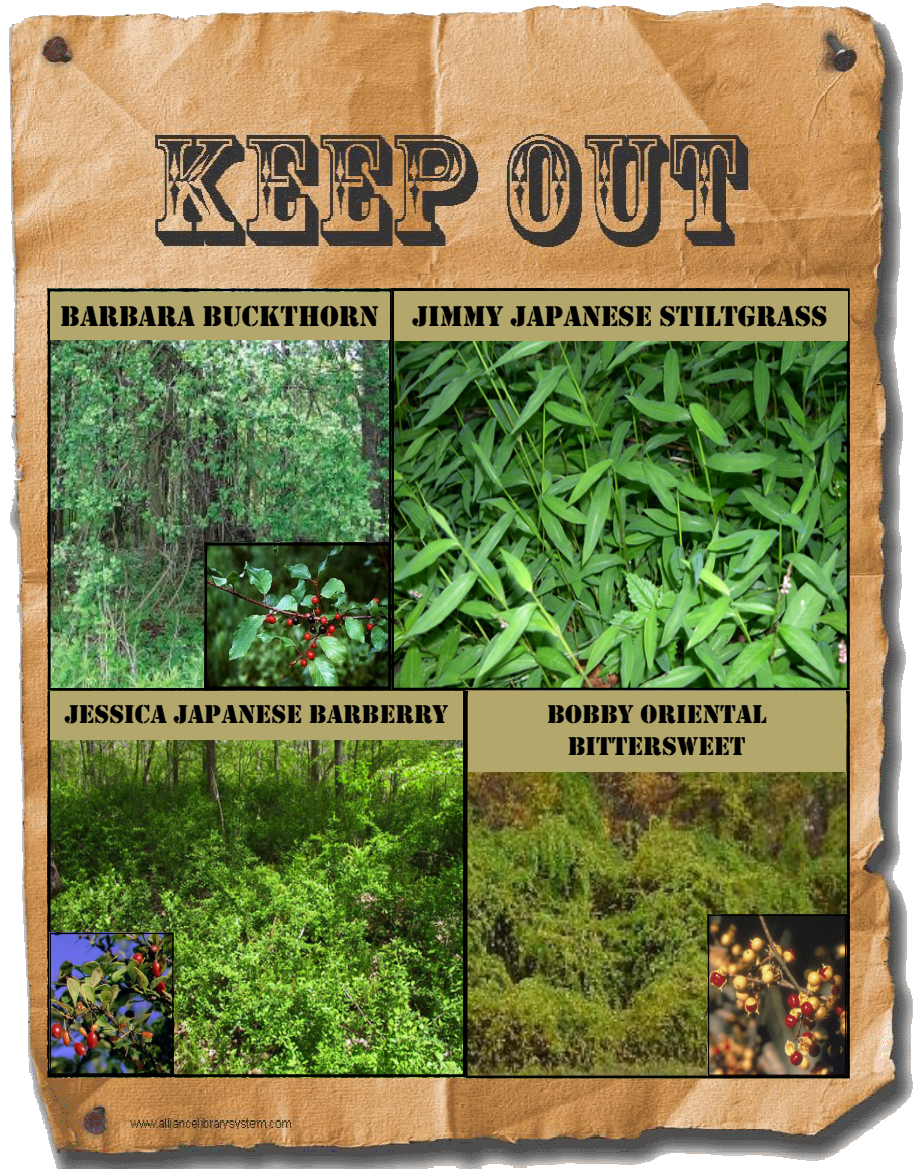


CLUE 3: "I have rounded leaves."

for these bullies: "Bobby" Oriental Bittersweet, "Barbara" Buckthorn, "Jimmy" Japanese Stiltgrass, and "Jessica" Japanese Barberry. These Invaders take up all the space on the forest floor and won't allow important native plants and young trees room to grow. My wildlife friends cannot find enough nutritious food to eat when the Invaders come. Some humans think the Invaders look nice in their gardens, so they plant them with best intentions. What these humans don't realize is, the Invaders are really hurting the Woodland Family and all the forest creatures we work so hard to nurture and protect.

Sometimes invasive insects and disease can threaten to destroy the Woodland Family. That is why Steward Gardener always makes sure that there are a variety of different types of trees in our Family like Red Maples, White Pines, White Oaks, Yellow Birch, Black Gum Trees and others. Steward knows that at least some of these trees will survive, when others may not. This helps to protect the entire Woodland Family.

Living here among my family allows me to see some really special things. Last week Umberto, the Umber Shadowdragon landed right here on my branch. It is a really cool dragon fly that isn't seen very often in RI. And just as I was about to take a nap I noticed a pair of bald eagles grandly soaring across the sky above me. Did you know that the Bald Eagle was chosen as the emblem of the United States of America in 1782?! It made me proud to think that the Woodland's work here in the Scituate Reservoir Watershed is so





valuable and benefits so many species of animals, including humans!

You can join us in helping our community remain a healthy home for all our plant, animal and human friends. Take some time to look upon the beauty of my Woodland Family. Walk among us and breathe the fresh air. Look at all the diversity and life in the forest. You can tell your family and friends to only plant native species and to do what they can

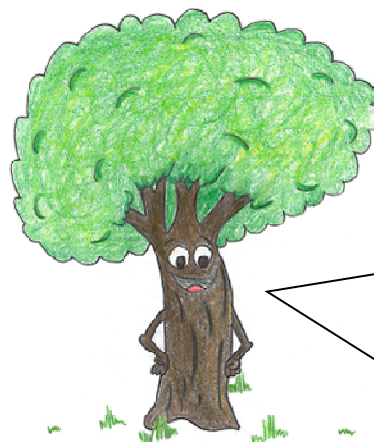
to get rid of the Invaders. We need your help! My sister is very young and I want her to grow up in the same community I grew up in and to be healthy just like me. Steward Gardener is learning all he can about the Invaders. His friends at Providence Water and the RI Department of Environmental Management Division of Forestry are helping him to understand how we can all work together to keep the Woodland Family and wildlife healthy and happy.

Woodland High School
Class of 2010: Superlatives

→		←
<u>Best Dressed</u>		<u>Most Theatrical</u>
Bald Eagles: Ellen & Eddie		Bobolink Bird: Betsy
		<u>Most Athletic</u>
↑	<u>Best Hair</u> Cottontail Rabbit: Roger	Umber Shadowdragon: Umberto
		←

Thanks! I knew I could count on you!

Sincerely, Woody B. Woodland



Now that you know all about the working world of trees, try to answer the questions on the next page. If you tear the page out and return to your teacher, you'll even get a special prize!

Scituate Reservoir Watershed Education Program is a partnership between:
Providence Water & **Northern RI Conservation District**

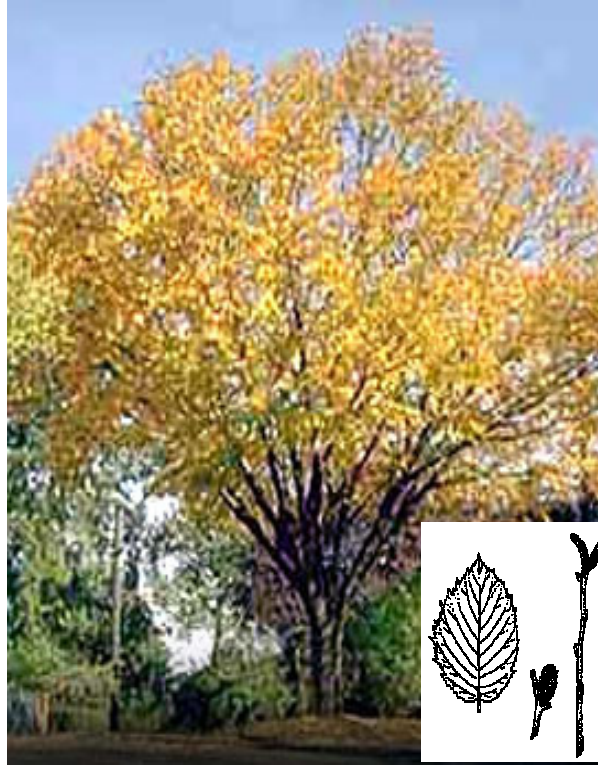
International Year of the Forest Partners: RI Department of Environmental Management—Division of Forest Environment; RI Forest Conservators Organization; RI Rural Development Council; RI Resource Conservation & Development Council; RI Tree Farm Program; USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service; Society of American Foresters

Visit us at: www.LandWaterConnection.org

Directions: Please answer the following questions. Detach this homework sheet and return to your teacher to receive a special prize!

1. What kind of Tree am I, Mr. Woody B. Woodland? Check the correct box.
(If you need help look back to clues in the story.)

YELLOW BIRCH



WHITE PINE



RED MAPLE (RI state tree)



WHITE OAK



BLACK GUM



2. The Woodland Family provides services that benefit all of the Earth's communities. Can you name three services that we provide?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

BONUS: Name some woodland wildlife that you see around Rhode Island.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____