

Civilian Conservation Corps.

Grades 3-4(Adapt as Needed)

Prepared by the Lumber Heritage Region Educators

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Examine the Civilian Conservation Corps. Program in terms of what, who, and why. Acknowledge the enduring legacy of the program we benefit from today.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

1. Geography
2. History
3. Environment & Ecology
4. Pennsylvania Core Standards for Reading/Writing in History and Social Studies
5. Connections & Conflict

OBJECTIVES

1. Students should be able to list 3 contributions of the CCC program.
2. Students will be able to locate a CCC camp on a map.
3. Students will be able to identify at least 1 thing the CCC enrollees would have helped with that we still can see today.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. https://elibrary.dcnr.pa.gov/GetDocument?docId=1738650&DocName=PennsylvaniaCCCamp_Map.pdf
(zoom in)
2. Local Map (suggested - Google Earth or Google Maps)
3. Materials for drawing pictures

ACTIVITY/ASSESSMENT

1. Read the Story of the CCC's and answer the read-along questions.
2. On a map - have students mark where their town/city is located.
Then, using the CCC camp map of Pennsylvania, have them locate the 3 closest camps to this point.
 - a. Students can also note any state parks/forests they are familiar with (maybe taken a field trip to) and compare to see the closest CCC camps.
3. Have students draw a picture of a CCC enrollee either working or in a camp. Have students write a caption or brief description about what their drawing shows.

The Civilian Conservation Corps.



Forests are Pennsylvania's most abundant renewable natural resource. Before Europeans arrived, Pennsylvania was covered almost entirely with forests which were managed by Native Americans and natural processes.

In the 1800s and 1900s, America was busy harvesting the nation's trees and forests to support growth of the county and industry. By the 1920's, the logging industry had left Pennsylvania with hardly any forests. Frequent wildfires and erosion limited new growth. The wild area we know today as the Lumber Heritage Region started being referred to as the "Pennsylvania Desert". Then, in 1929 the country faced another problem. An era known as the "Great Depression" started and banks closed, businesses shut down, and many people were out of work.

President Roosevelt needed to find a way to support the country. One solution was the Civilian Conservation Corps. (CCC) program. This program started in 1933 and hired mostly young men ages 17-25 to help renew the land.

Sometimes called, "Roosevelt's Tree Army", these men planted over 60 million trees in Pennsylvania and around 3 billion across the country. They also helped manage the land by fighting wildfires and controlling soil erosion. They built roads, bridges, buildings, picnic areas...even swimming pools!

Pennsylvania had around 151 camps, only California had more (around 165). Men poured in from all over to enroll in these camps. They worked for a dollar every day and most of their pay was sent back to their families each month.

The CCC program ended in 1942 as America focused on World War II efforts. Today, many of Pennsylvania's state parks exist because of the CCC program and our forests have successfully regrown. Thankfully, they are now managed with renewability in mind.



Questions about the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Name _____ Date _____

Read the Story of the CCCs and answer the following questions.

1. Are forests a renewable or nonrenewable natural resource? _____
2. What was the nickname of the area of Pennsylvania now recognized as the Lumber Heritage Region in the 1920's? _____
3. What year was the CCC program started? _____
4. What year did the CCC program end? _____
5. List 3 things the CCCs worked on...

6. If a CCC enrollee worked for 30 days, how much money would he have earned? _____
7. What do you like about forests?
