

Venn Diagram – Making Comparisons (Sugar Maple and Rubber Trees)

**This lesson format can be used to draw comparisons between other trees, objects made of wood or paper, cultures, ecosystems, etc. studied through “Tree Travels.”*

Purpose: To instruct students on how to use a Venn diagram to compare the similarities and differences of two trees they have studied, while assessing for comprehension of the material earlier presented.

Kindergarten Standards: (ICSD Power Standards displayed in bold)

Reading Standards for Informational Text: Kindergarten

- Key Ideas and Details:
 - 3. With prompting and support, describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.**
- Integration and Knowledge of Ideas:
 - 9. With prompting and support, identify basic similarities and differences between two texts on the same topic (e.g., in illustrations, descriptions, or procedures).**

Writing Standards: Kindergarten

- Research to Build and Present Knowledge:
 - 8. With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.**

Speaking and Listening Standards: Kindergarten

- Comprehension and Collaboration
 - 1. Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.**
 - a. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., listening to others and taking turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion).**
 - b. Continue a conversation through multiple exchanges.**
 - 2. Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.
- Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas
 - 6. Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.**

Language Standards: Kindergarten

- Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
 - 6. Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.**

Materials:

- White board/chalk board/chart paper
- Three markers (all different colors)
- Photo Cards of Natural Rubber and Maple Syrup
- *Sequencing Cards/VoiceThread video of Maple Syrup and Natural Rubber (optional content review)

Set Up:

- Using two different colors, draw two overlapping circles on the board.
- Write "Sugar Maple Trees" above one circle and "Rubber Trees" above the other circle.

**Refer to the chart below for a visual.*

Guided Instruction:

- Hold up the photo cards for "Natural Rubber" and "Maple Syrup." *If needed, use the VoiceThreads or sequencing cards for each topic to review previously learned material.

TEACHER: We have learned a lot of interesting facts about sugar maple and rubber trees. They have a lot in common, but also many things that make them unique (or special). Think of ways that sugar maple and rubber trees are the same and different. Let's use a Venn diagram to help us organize our ideas on the board.

- Point to the Venn diagram on the board, and explain to the children that they will be using it to help them organize their ideas about sugar maple and rubber trees.
- Begin by asking kids to raise their hands and share what they know about sugar maple trees that make them special or different from rubber trees. Write each correct response in the appropriate circle. If a child gives an answer that relates to both trees (i.e. people use their sap), tell them to "hold on to that answer," and you will call on them again in just a few minutes. **Writing the responses in the same color as the circle, helps to visually reinforce the differences between the trees.*
- Repeat the question and record responses for the rubber tree.
- Next, ask the children to share ways that the trees are the same. **Record the answers in the overlapping space in a third color.*

Sample responses are written below:

Similarities:

- Both tapped
- Sap slowly drips from tree
- Collect sap in bowl/bucket
- Sap is heated when processed
- People use the sap to make something desirable

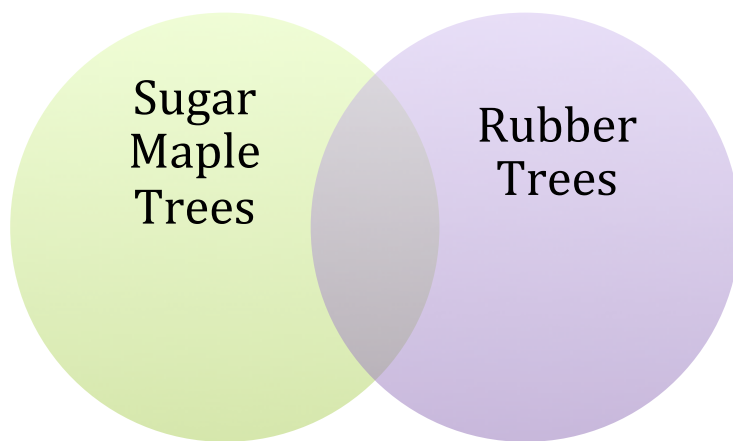
Maple Trees:

- Tapped in early spring
- Holes drilled in the bark
- Clear sap
- Like cold weather
- Sap used to make syrup

- Bark is rough
- Grow in New York (United States and Canada)

Rubber Trees:

- Tapped most of the year
- Cuts made in the bark with a knife
- White sap
- Like warm weather
- Sap used to make rubber
- Bark is smooth
- Grow in Vietnam (and other countries with warm climates)



**If you wish to expand the lesson, you can add the Kauri Tree into the comparison. Instead of a Venn diagram, you can also use a diagram like the one below.*

