

Name _____

Reading informational text
RI.3.1, 2

Sweet Stuff!



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Read the passage. Then use the text to answer the questions.

Did you know that maple syrup comes from trees? The sap inside the maple tree turns sweet near the end of winter. It is sweet enough to eat! Long ago, Native Americans learned how to collect sap from trees to make sugar and syrup. They used a knife or tomahawk to cut a hole in the tree which is called “tapping the tree.” This allowed the sap to flow out. The sap was then heated in a large pot over an open fire. It was boiled down into syrup or sugar. Sugar was much easier to store and transport than syrup. Sweet stuff!



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1. What is the main idea of this passage?

2. What does it mean to “tap a tree”?

3. Who were some of the first people to make maple syrup from maple sap?

4. When does a maple tree’s sap turn sweet?

5. What items did Native Americans use to turn sap into syrup or sugar?

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Note to the teacher: Get the scoop on sap and other products that come from trees at TheForestAcademy.com, sponsored by Domtar.

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“Sweet Stuff!”

Answer Key

1. the history of maple syrup
2. to cut a hole in a maple tree and let the sap flow out
3. Native Americans
4. near the end of winter
5. Possible answers include a large pot, wood, kindling, sticks or stones to rub together to start a fire, and tools to stir with.

