

Forest Type Inventory

While visiting a forest, answer these questions:

1. What is the current air temperature? Record the date and time of your measurement.
2. Do you think this temperature is typical for the area? How do you think it compares to the “average” temperature for this area?
3. What would you estimate the range of temperature and precipitation to be over the course of the year for this area? When does precipitation typically fall in this area?
4. What species of trees does this forest contain? (You may want to use field guides to identify them.)
5. How does the forested area compare to the surrounding area in terms of vegetation and other features?

Using the Internet or library resources, answer these questions:

6. What is the average temperature and average annual precipitation for this area? What is the range for each of those averages? Where does your measurement for air temperature (from Question 1) fall into this range? How do the temperature and precipitation vary by season?
7. Search for the high, low, and mean temperatures for the date of your measurements. Where does your measurement for air temperature fall in this range?
8. How might temperature and precipitation patterns affect the trees that grow in the local forest?
9. According to the forest classification system used by FAO, what global ecological zone is this forest?
10. Looking at your state (or regional) map, decide what type of forest is shown for this area. Is the map accurate?