VIRTUAL LEARNING JOURNEY
GEORGIA FORESTS
www.gpb.org/forests

SECTION 2: MEASURING FORESTS (TEACHER KEY)

A collection of trees is referred to as a stand. Tree scientists measure the density of stands by determining the number of trees in a given area. This allows them to determine if thinning is necessary and if any trees should be harvested.

To measure the density of a stand:

- Explore your school, neighborhood, or nearby park for a stand
- Count the number of trees in the stand
- Determine the area (ft2) of the stand (length multiplied by the width)
- Divide the number of trees by the area (ft2) and this will equal the stand's density

Number of Trees 10

***TEACHER NOTE:** This is an example equation

Width of Stand 20 x Length of Stand 20 = 400 ft^2

Number of Trees ÷ Area (ft^2) = 0.025 SDI (Stand Density Index)

Based on the density of the stand, what forest management methods would you use to make sure it is a healthy working forest? Explain your answer.

Thinning - by selectively harvesting trees, the remaining trees have more room to grow and receive more sunlight

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