

Restoring the American Chestnut

Use the American Chestnut Foundation video and the websites below to answer the questions on this worksheet.

- The rest of The American Chestnut Foundation website, in particular the Native Range Map: http://www.acf.org/mission_history.php
- American Chestnut Restoration Project from the United States Forest Service, the American Chestnut Foundation, and the University of Tennessee: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/chestnut/index.php>

1. List at least three reasons that the American chestnut was economically important.
2. What other organisms depended on the American chestnut for food? Where in the food pyramid would the tree be located?
3. What exotic species brought the chestnut blight?
4. What type of symbiotic relationship does the blight have with the tree?
5. List some of the effects that the blight has on the tree. Include a sketch of a healthy tree vs. an infected tree in your answer. (You can use the back side of this worksheet.)
6. Describe the method being used by the American Chestnut Foundation to restore the chestnut population.
7. Using the Native Range Map on the American Chestnut Foundation website as well as the websites listed above, complete the following:
 - a. Did American chestnut trees grow in North Carolina?
 - b. Does North Carolina still have healthy chestnut trees?
 - c. Approximately what percentage of the original distribution of trees remains?
 - d. How many years did it take for the trees to be reduced to this percentage?