

Learning at HeHe Outdoor School



"Is that a tree or a shrub?" asks Extension Agent Clint Jacks on a recent 4-H sponsored resource tour. Among other things, the fourth-graders learned the difference between trees, bushes, forbs and grasses.

In the words of about 30 fourth graders from Warm Springs Elementary, "Bitterbrush tastes ugly!" The kids found this out May 23 on a 4H-Sponsored resource tour to HeHe Butte.

Extension Agent Clint Jacks, who led the plant class, wanted to get two concepts across to the kids. The first was to get them to understand that there is variety

of plant-life on the reservation. There are trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses.

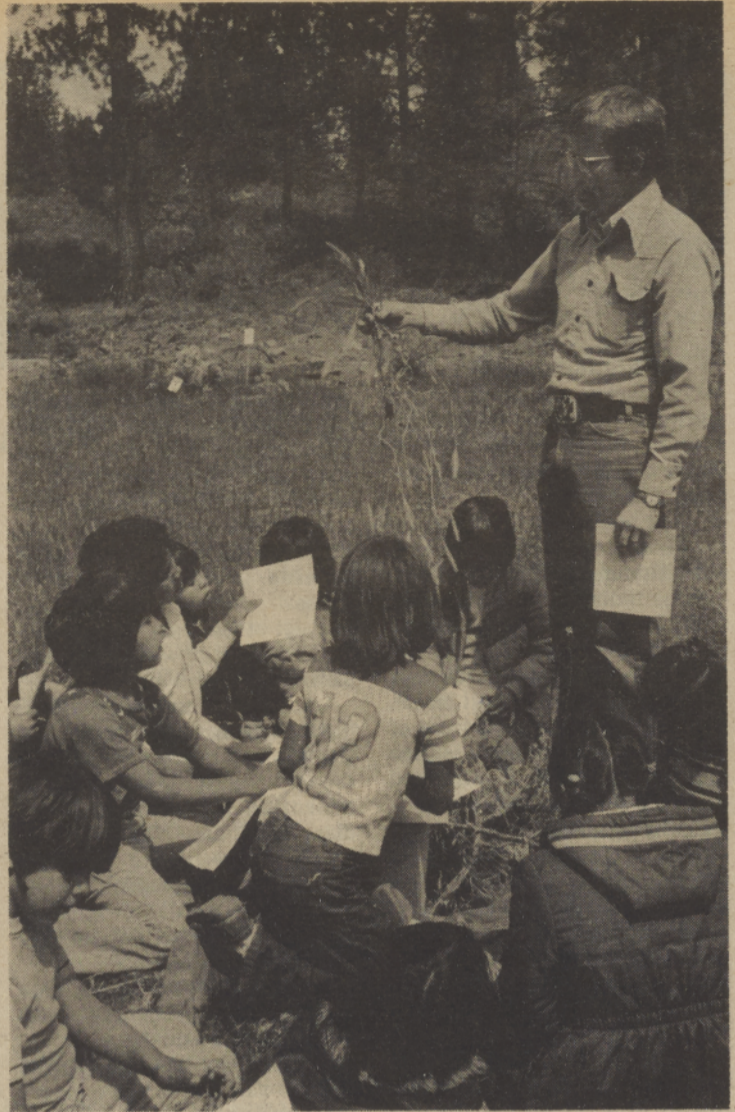
The second thing the students learned was that not all grasses, shrubs, trees and forbs are the same. You need to look closely, smell, and sometimes even taste to detect differences.

Forester Bill Williams encouraged the kids to study the differences in bark appearance

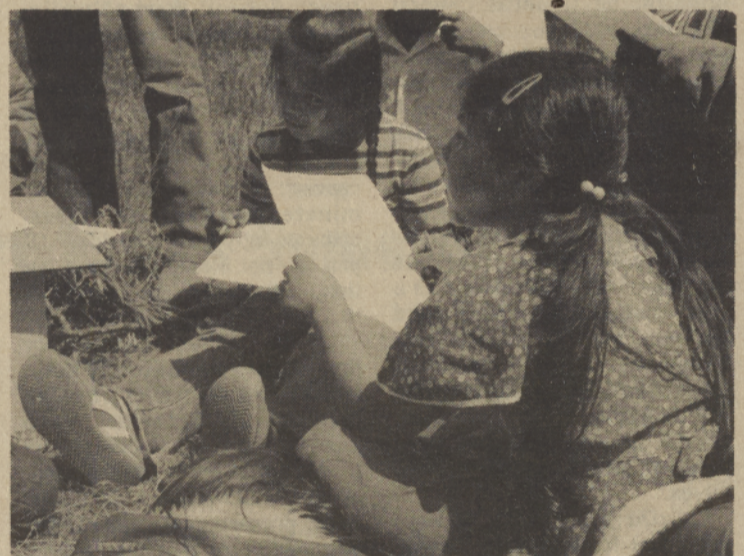
as well as scent when determining tree types. And he acquainted them with the differences between pine and fir cones.

A number of the kids showed remarkable ability in identifying a variety of plants and trees, and they proved to be good listeners, too.

There was also a short visit to the Warm Springs Fish Hatchery and a tour conducted by hatchery manager Gary White.



"Is this an annual grass or a perennial?" The kids learned that Bulbous Blue Grass is important because it competes with the less desirable cheat grass.



Check-lists in hand, Phillip Florendo and June Smith listen to hear if their answers match the correct ones in the plant identification quiz.

TEXT & PHOTOS

BY SANDY RANGILA



"You can tell a lot by just smelling the needles and bark," explained forester Bill Williams on a tree identification tour at HeHe Butte.



Forester Bill Williams showed the kids a simple way to measure the circumference of a tree, and from that measurement, how to gauge the height of the tree.