



Where's the Sap?

You're on a QUEST!



In which food products can maple sap be found? Maple sap is actually contained in several unique products. These products can be found in grocery and specialty stores.

With family members, try to find out in what ways, and in what products, maple sap is used. Compare the products containing genuine maple sap with those that have flavored or imitation maple. How do the costs differ? How else do you think these products differ?

A. Market Research



At the grocery store or specialty store:

Find the shelves of maple products. Read various product labels to see where natural maple sap is used. List these products in a journal or notebook, being sure to write down the amount of maple each product contains. Why do you think there isn't more maple sap used in some of the products? What is the pricing difference? Do any of these items contain other types of natural products besides maple syrups?

B. Analysis

Now compare the products you have found. Answer the following questions (and any others you can come up with):

- Which products are similar? Which are the most different?
- How do the prices vary for the same or similar products? Why do you think this is?
- Which products contain very little maple sap but could lead buyers to think they do?
- In how many ways is maple used for cooking?
- Is there a maple product that surprised you?
- What other interesting observations did you make during your maple product research?



QUEST: Investigating Our World is a regional public television series seen on Maine Public Broadcasting Network, Vermont Public Television, and New Hampshire Public Television



Major funding for Quest is provided by the National Science Foundation. Additional support is provided by Irving Woodlands and by gifts to More Connected, More Maine. The Campaign for Maine Public Broadcasting Network's Programming.

