

**LESSON PLAN**  
**SAW SELECTION, MAINTENANCE, AND USE**  
**(30 Minutes)**

**MATERIALS REQUIRED**

1 bow saw	Rags/paper towels
1 pr leather gloves	1 small paint brush
1 pr safety goggles	1 container 3-in-1 oil
1 dry-erase board/chalk board	1 container linseed oil
1 can WD-40	1 container of Q-Tips

**INTRODUCTION**

There are three basic woods tools every Scout should be familiar with. These are the knife, the ax, and the bow or camp saw.

With these three tools a Scout can clear a campsite, build a comfortable shelter and camp furniture, and prepare a fire to keep himself warm and to cook with. In emergencies, the tools allow him to build signal fires, traps and snares to catch game, and defend himself if necessary. These tools also allow him to build other tools to help him survive.

In previous lessons we have learned how to select, maintain, and use knives and axes. In this period of instruction we will learn how to select, maintain, and use camp saws.

**PURPOSE AND MAIN IDEAS**

The purpose of this period of instruction is to teach you the proper care, handling, and use of the saw.

We will do this by covering:

- Selecting a saw,
- Maintaining a saw, and
- Using a saw.

Upon completion of this period of instruction you will be able to:

1. Discuss the general characteristics of saws suitable for camping and general survival requirements.
2. Discuss and demonstrate the proper care of saws including storage, cleaning, sharpening, and handling.
3. Discuss and demonstrate the proper use of saws.

## **BODY**

### **1<sup>st</sup> Main Idea: Selecting a Saw**

There are two major types of saws suitable for use about camp. *Folding saws* have blades that fold into their handles, much like a pocketknife. *Bow saws* have curved metal frames or wooden handles connected by a tensioner.

Folding saws are a good choice for backpacking and hiking, while bow saws, which tend to be larger, are a good choice for a patrol or troop pioneering kit.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Main Idea: Maintaining a Saw**

**Cleaning:** Brush dirt, wood chips, bits of leaves, etc. from the frame and blade. With folding saws, make sure the groove the blade folds into is clean also. Make sure any exposed screw threads are clean and free of burrs. Wipe down the blade and metal handles with a light coat of lightweight oil. On folding saws, apply a drop of oil on the pivot. On saws with wooden handles, apply a coat of linseed oil to the handle.

**Sharpening:** As a general rule, it is best to have saw blades sharpened by an experienced person. Damaged or badly worn blades should be replaced.

**Storage:** When a bow saw is not in use, cover its teeth with a sheath made from a length of split garden hose. Use cord or twine to secure it in place. For folding saws without a latch, secure the blade in the closed position with a bit of cord or twine.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Main Idea: Using a Saw**

When cutting firewood, brace the piece of wood against a chopping block, sawbuck, or other solid support. Use long, smooth strokes and let the weight of the saw pull the blade into the wood.

To cut a branch from a tree, first make an *undercut* on the bottom of the branch, then saw from the top down. The undercut prevents the falling branch from stripping bark off the trunk. A clean cut close to the trunk won't leave an unsightly "hat rack" that can snag passing personnel.

When clearing brush, cut the trunk as near to level with the ground as possible so that there are not stumps to trip over.

Always obey the following DOs and DON'Ts:

- DO:** Sheath a saw except when it is being used or cleaned.
- Carry a bow saw with the blade turned away from your body.
- Replace blades when they become dull or damaged.

Use care when passing a saw from one person to another.  
Wear gloves and protective eyewear.

- DON'T:** Cut any trees, alive or dead, without permission.  
Allow the saw's blade to cut into the ground. Soil and rocks will quickly dull the teeth.  
Leave a saw lying about the camp.

## **SUMMARY**

Folding saws are a good choice for backpackers and hikers. Bow saws, because they are larger, are the best choice for a general camp saw.

Always obey the following saw DOs and DON'Ts:

- DO:** Sheath a saw except when it is being used or cleaned.  
Carry a bow saw with the blade turned away from your body.  
Replace blades when they become dull or damaged.  
Use care when passing a saw from one person to another.  
Wear gloves and protective eyewear.

- DON'T:** Cut any trees, alive or dead, without permission.  
Allow the saw's blade to cut into the ground. Soil and rocks will quickly dull the teeth.  
Leave a saw lying about the camp.

## **QUESTIONS FROM THE CLASS**

## **QUESTIONS TO THE CLASS**

### **THE OUTDOOR CODE**

As an American, I will do my best to —

**BE CLEAN** in my outdoor manners,

**BE CAREFUL** with fire,

**BE CONSIDERATE** in the outdoors, and

**BE CONSERVATION-MINDED.**