

### Listen and fill in the blanks:

Ali wanted to get out and enjoy the (1)\_\_\_\_\_ holiday with his children. He decided to take them to visit a sugar (2)\_\_\_\_\_ so they could see how maple syrup is made. It is produced for only a few short weeks each spring when the temperature causes the sap in the trees to start (3)\_\_\_\_\_. The daytime temperatures must be above zero and the nighttime temperature must be below (4)\_\_\_\_\_. When this happens the sap begins to flow. Maple syrup producers (5)\_\_\_\_\_ holes into the trees and insert a small tube called a tap. We say they are tapping the trees. They hang buckets below the taps so they can collect the sap that (6)\_\_\_\_\_ out of the taps. Ali and his children dressed warmly because even though the temperature was above freezing, it was still (7)\_\_\_\_\_. They arrived at the sugar bush just in time to get on an open wagon pulled by two large work (8)\_\_\_\_\_. As they rode the cart into the woodlot they noticed buckets hanging on the trunks of trees around them. Everyone got off the wagon at a small building called the sugar (9)\_\_\_\_\_. The owner of the operation explained that he (10)\_\_\_\_\_ the sap from the buckets and takes it to the sugar shack. He pours the sap into a large kettle and (11)\_\_\_\_\_ it down to remove some of the water through evaporation. As the sap boils it becomes thicker and sweeter. The thin runny maple sap becomes maple (12)\_\_\_\_\_. It takes a lot of maple sap to make maple syrup. In fact you need about 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup. It's a long, slow (13)\_\_\_\_\_ but it's worth it. Ali's children

were fascinated by the process of making maple syrup. They learned

(14)\_\_\_\_\_ the people of Canada's First Nations began collecting and using the sap

many years ago. And they were (15)\_\_\_\_\_ when the owner of the woodlot

poured some of the fresh, hot syrup onto some clean, cold snow and it

(16)\_\_\_\_\_ into a maple candy that they could taste. He also explained why the

colour of maple syrup (17)\_\_\_\_\_. The first sap which flows early in the

sugaring season produces a light (18)\_\_\_\_\_ syrup and syrup from sap

which is gathered toward the end of the season is a much (19)\_\_\_\_\_ colour.

Ali bought a small tin of syrup to take home before he and his children left the sugar

bush. Maple syrup is delicious to eat over ice cream or poured into (20)\_\_\_\_\_

yogurt. And some people like to bake with it. Every spring there are many maple syrup

festivals where people celebrate spring and Mother (21)\_\_\_\_\_ sweet treat.

Pancake breakfasts are an important part of these festivals. There is nothing tastier than a

stack of piping hot pancakes with a pat of butter melting in the middle and fresh maple

syrup (22)\_\_\_\_\_ over the whole thing.