**Tree Activities**

Trees are an incredibly important part of the environment. Among other things, trees produce oxygen, reduce carbon dioxide in the air, prevent soil erosion, produce food and goods, slow storm run-off, and provide a habitat for many plants and animals. There is estimated to be over 100,000 different species of trees in the world.

By observing a tree in the forest, students can develop a better awareness of trees and learn about some of the characteristics that are used to identify trees.

**Activity**

* Have each student select one tree to observe. It can either be the tree they examined in the Hug a Tree activity or a different tree of their choosing.
* Have the students gather information about their tree to complete the Tree Identification Worksheet.
* On the worksheet, the students will:
  + List 10 words that describe the tree
  + Make a rubbing of the tree’s bark using a pencil or crayon
  + Draw or Trace a leaf from the tree
  + Explain why they think the tree is alive or dead
  + Record sounds they hear near the tree
  + Draw a picture of the tree
  + Describe one thing they find interesting about the tree
* Using the information gathered about the tree, students should use a field guide to try and identify the tree so they can answer the final question on the worksheet.

**Extensions**

* Have the student write a paragraph or a poem using the ten words that described their tree.
* Gather leaves and make leaf prints.
* Re-visit the tree during a different time of the year to observe how the tree might have changed.
* Have the students prepare a short report or poster about the type of tree they observed.

**Tree Identification Worksheet**

**Directions:** Select on tree in the forest to observe. Use that tree to complete the activities below.

**List 10 words that describe your tree.**

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3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 10. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Make a rubbing of your tree’s bark in the box Draw or trace a leaf from your tree**

**Is your tree alive? How can you tell?**

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**Draw the seeds:**

**Does your tree have any seeds? Describe the seeds.**

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**Quietly stand next to your tree and listen for any sounds. Do you hear any sounds near your tree?**

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**Draw a picture of your tree including the shape it its trunk, branches and treetop.**

**What is one thing that is interesting about your tree?**

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**What is one thing that is interesting about your tree?**

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**What type of tree is your tree?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_