

TREE ID

We have already looked for animal tracks and studied birds, but what about those big plants the birds were sitting in or the animals were walking under? Trees! You can't have a forest without them. They are important homes and resources for other plants, animals, and us. This week we are going to focus on activities that let us get to know some of the different kinds of trees that we have here in Minnesota.

TERMS

Coniferous Tree: Trees that bear seeds in cones. They have needles or scale leaves that stay green throughout the year.

Deciduous Tree: Trees that have broad leaves that fall off in autumn. They do not bear seeds in cones.

Bark: The protective outside layer of a tree.

Trunk: The main stem of a tree.

Leaves: Make food for the tree through photosynthesis.

Seeds: Will grow into a new plant.

Branches: Hold leaves and seeds. A split from the main stem or trunk.

Buds: The part of a plant that grows new branches or leaves.

Roots: Collect water and minerals from the soil. Act as an anchor that helps keeps the tree standing upright.

Photosynthesis: The process of turning sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide into sugar and oxygen.



TREE ID RESOURCES

CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW
FOR MORE INFORMATION

[Minnesota DNR](#)

[Arbor Day](#)

[Minnesota Wildflowers](#)

TREE ID

DAY 2

Did you know that trees and other plants can make their own food using the sun, water, and air? This process is called photosynthesis and it happens in the leaves of a plant or tree. Right now many deciduous trees are just starting to grow new leaves for the season, but you can still find leaves on many coniferous (evergreen) trees because they keep their leaves all year around. Can you see any deciduous or evergreen trees outside?

Make a Leaf Rubbing

Find a leaf or two around the base of each tree. To make a leaf rubbing:

1. Make sure your leaves are dry
2. Put a leaf upside down on a table
3. Place a piece of paper over the leaf
4. Use the side of a dark colored crayon to rub/mark the area over the leaf (the paper cover on the crayon must be removed)
5. Repeat on as many leaves as you want!

Here is a video that shows a leaf rubbing in progress: you can rub with one leaf or many to make a collage. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W66TAqCT4hc>



TREE ID

DAY 3

Compare your tree to another tree close by.

What do you notice that is the same and what is different?

SIMILARITIES IN YOUR TREES

DIFFERENCES IN YOUR TREES

Minnesota has many different species (kinds) of trees, familiarize yourself with some of the trees that can be found around you. Here are some resources below:

Beginners guide to tree identification, <https://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/49816/6593.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

MDNR Native Trees, <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/trees/native-trees.html>

MN Wildflowers, <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/page/trees>

Visit an [Anoka County Park](#) and complete the tree scavenger hunt attached.

Advanced Activity

Visit an [Anoka County Park](#) or other natural space and identify 3 different tree species.

Tree Scavenger Hunt

Try to find all of the items on the list. You can look in your yard or a nearby park

A leaf shaped like your hand



A leaf shaped like feather



A leaf with teeth like a saw on the sides



A brown leaf



A leaf still on a tree



Smooth bark



Rough bark



A tree with green leaves



A tree with a hole in it



TREE ID

DAY 4

Many living things call a tree their home. Trees are important to the forest even after they are dead. When trees die and are still standing they are called "snags." People often cut these trees down because they don't want them to fall on people or buildings or because they don't know how important they are to the forest.

Complete the word puzzle below to see what could be living in a snag.

Dead Trees

Find out what living things depend on dead trees by finding them in the word puzzle below.

K O N M S U K E I B O G J Z F
V J S C C X X S Q S N C C E A
S B N A D F H H L X O K Z P J
R A U N B J L E T K I I R R R
A Z N T D B R Z C S E B E A J
C E M S T R E U W U A K O T D
C L Z U I E D E G C C W P M V
O N K U S D R O T E O V O P X
O D Q M O H N F P L K P S W G
N S C O Q R R D L M E X S F L
S B W S G F O O Q I M S U M N
O T U S T O W J O X E D M T H
X Z M E W Y S M N M F S S R Y
B E E S E M K N J C S K D S I
I U A U J L I C H E N S Y Q Y

ANTS
BUTTERFLIES
MUSHROOMS
RACCOONS
WOODPECKER
BEES
LICHENS
OPOSSUMS
SQUIRRELS
BEETLES
MOSESSES
OWL
WOODDUCK

Now that we know more about dead trees or snags, head outside to a natural space or park and look for the items in the scavenger hunt. Can you find them all?

Find a log and flip it over. What do you see underneath? Is there anything growing on the log? Any holes? Make sure to put it back like you found it.

DEAD TREE HUNT



Woodpecker Holes



Toadstool
Mushroom



Worm



Insect tunnels



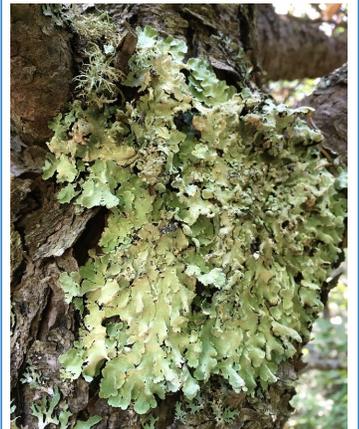
Loose bark



Moss



Hollow Log



Lichen



Pill bug



Bracket Mushroom

TREE ID

DAY 5

There are many ways that trees help us. They provide food, wood for building, heating, making paper, shelter, shade, clean our air, make oxygen, they are fun to climb and play in, and many other services and resources. What are your favorite tree gifts?

Activities

Collect and compare 5 objects in your house or refrigerator that could have come from a tree.

- 1 -
- 2 -
- 3 -
- 4 -
- 5 -

Paper is another resource that we get from trees. It is a little messy but you can make it from home.

Click the link for instructions: <https://www.instructables.com/id/Homemade-Paper/>

Write a poem about a tree. Below is an example of a haiku and a rhyming couplet.

Haiku- a three line poem with a set number of syllables in each line 5 in the first, 7 in the second, and 5 in the third (5-7-5).

maple sap dripping
plop, plop, into the bucket
sweet gifts for later

Rhyming couplets are two line poems in which the last word rhymes.

A maple tree's sap is sweet
But is not stored in their feet!

TREE ID

TREE RUBBING TREE CRAFT

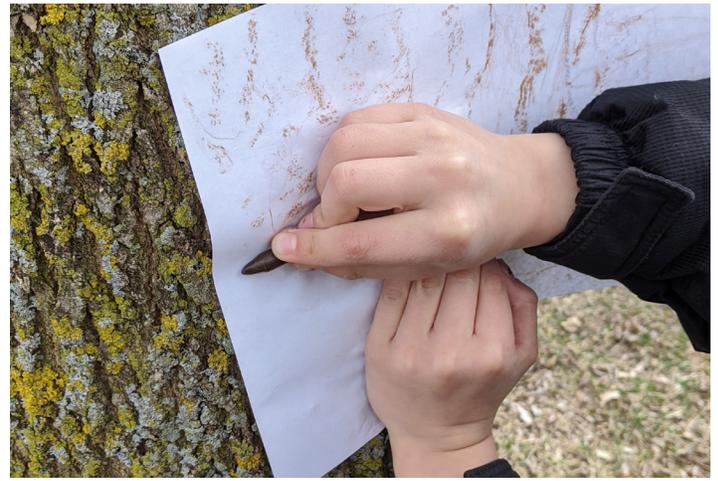
Supplies

White paper
Brown crayon (paper peeled off)
Green construction paper
Glue
Scissors
Stapler

Instructions

Grab your white paper and brown crayon and head outside to find a tree. Lay paper on tree horizontally and lay crayon horizontally on paper. Move crayon up and down putting pressure on it to transfer the texture of the bark onto the paper. Don't have a tree? Use the sidewalk or the brick or siding on your house. Any flat textured surface will give this fun textured effect.

Put glue on the short side and roll into itself so the glued edge holds together the rolled paper. This will be the trunk of the tree. I stapled the bottom edge to give the glue some extra hold. Apply light pressure to glued edge while it dries.



Take green construction paper and fold in half 3 times. Draw about 10 leaves on the top of your folded paper and cut them out. This will create about 80 leaves. Plenty for at least 2 trees.

Your tree trunk should be dried enough to cut the branches. Make cuts from the top about 3 inches down and a 1/4 inch wide. These will be the branches. They do not need to be even, that will make it look fluffier.

Glue leaves with 1 glue drop to branches in random spots. Let dry.

Make a forest and add your baby bird pompoms from last week's craft!



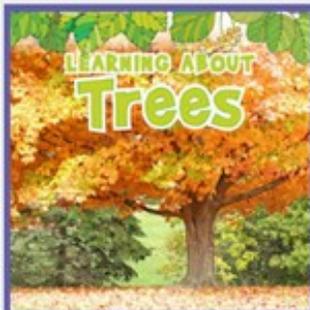
To read these books and more search under the
Anoka County Library E-library page.

No library card needed!

<https://www.anokacounty.us/2599/eLibrary>



SEARCH FOR: TREES



Learning About Trees

Catherine Veitch (Author)

Minnesota Made

BOOK

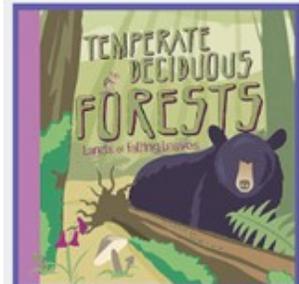


What's in a Tree?

Martha E. H. Rustad (Author)

Minnesota Made

BOOK



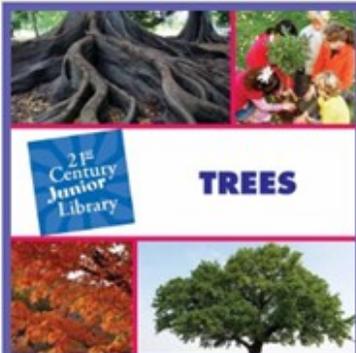
Temperate Deciduous Forests

Lands of Falling Leaves

Laura Purdie Salas (Author), Jeff Yesh (Illustrator)

Minnesota Made

BOOK



Trees

Christine Petersen (Author)

Minnesota Made

BOOK

Forests and Food

Addressing Hunger and Nutrition
Across Sustainable Landscapes

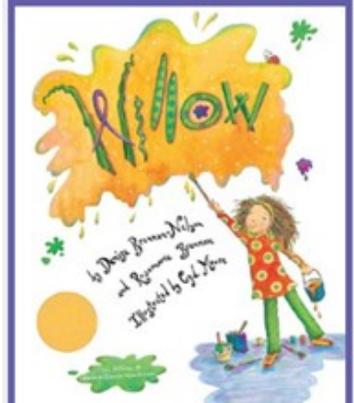
EDITED BY BHASKAR VIRA, CHRISTOPH WILDBURGER
AND STEPHANIE MANSOURIAN

Forests and Food

Addressing Hunger and Nutrition
Across Sustainable Landscapes

Bhaskar Vira (Editor), Christoph
Wildburger (Editor), Stephanie
Mansourian (Editor)

BOOK



Willow

Denise Brennan-Nelson (Author),
Rosemarie Brennan (Author), Cyd
Moore (Illustrator)

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