Forests are More than Trees Activity Packet



Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

Grade Levels: K-2

Activities in this packet:

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- Video Links
 - Parts of a Tree Song, <u>lyrics on page 7</u>, <u>https://youtu.be/cSiKe5-hyAk</u>
 - Observation Skills Building: The Parts of a Tree https://youtu.be/DavIMYcmgto
 - Story-time: The Busy Tree by Jennifer Ward https://youtu.be/Nw_LDdwpjsA
- <u>Download our illustrated trail map</u> of the Rapids Lake Forest Loop Trail for a guided exploration of the forest at the <u>Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center in Carver, MN</u>
 15865 Rapids Lake Rd, Carver, MN 55315



Forests are More than Trees Make your own Leaf Rubbings



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Gather these materials:

- Leaves-fallen leaves work well
- Paper- paper bound for the recycle bin works well
- Crayons with paper removed (pencils can work too)
- Hard surface such as a clip board or piece of cardboard

Making your leaf rubbings:

- 1. Find a leaf
- 2. Put your leaf on a hard surface, under a piece of paper
- 3. Color over where the leaf lies and watch as its bumps and ridges appear
- 4. Take a new piece of paper (or add to the one you're using) and repeat with a different leaf
- 5. Gather leaves from different trees to see how your rubbings compare
- 6. To create other textures, try the same technique with twigs or bark.









Forests are More than Trees Craft: Build a Tree Picture



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Gather these materials:

- Fallen twigs, leaves, seeds
- Paper or cardboard to mount your creation (recycled items work well)
- Glue or clear tape
- Crayons/colored pencils/markers

Making your tree:

- 1. Use twigs to make a tree shape on your paper
- 2. Add leaves, buds, flowers, seeds or fruit to your tree out of twigs or other natural materials
- 3. Glue or tape twigs to your paper and allow time for drying.
- 4. Color a forest scene around your new tree! You can add leaves and other details now too.
- 5. Coloring the scene before gluing, or not gluing at all and just creating a temporary scene are options too.







Forests are More than Trees Adopt-A-Tree Journal



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Gather these materials:

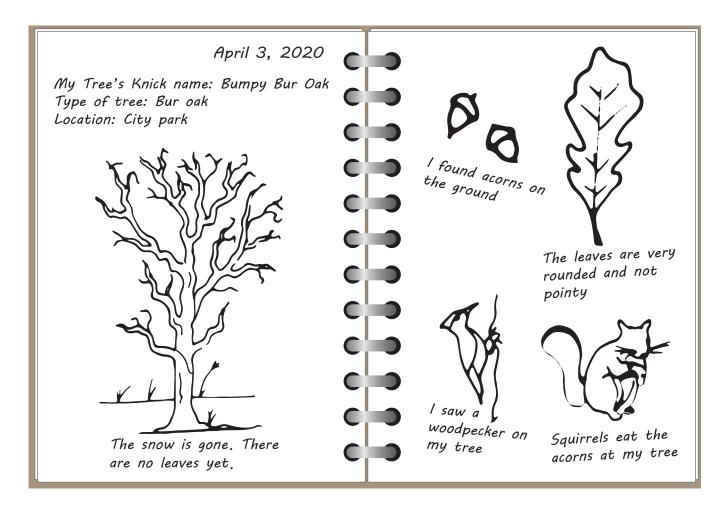
- Nature Journal or blank paper
- A tree- out your window, in your yard, on the street, at a local park
- Pencil/crayons/colored pencils/markers

Adopting your tree:

- 1. Choose your tree
- 2. Get to know your tree by observing it quietly for 10 minutes- use your senses and naturalist skills!
- 3. Name your tree- think about something that makes it stand out (e.g. bumpy bark, two trunks)
- 4. If you/your student want to identify your tree. Try this online guide: https://www.arborday.org/trees/whattree/whatTree.cfm?ItemID=E6A
- 5. Sketch your tree in your nature journal in these different ways:
 - From your point of view
 - From the point of view of a bald eagle flying above
 - From the point of view of an ant crawling below
 - How you think it would look in winter, summer, spring, and fall
- 6. Get to know the parts of your tree by drawing and observing each part, below are some questions to guide those observations
 - Roots- sit on these!
 - Can you see any of your tree's roots? How many?
 - Trunk- hug your tree!
 - Can you reach all the way around your tree?
 - How many trunks does it have?
 - Are there any holes in the trunk?

Adopt-A-Tree Journal, continued from page 4

- Bark- create a bark rubbing in your journal!
 - What color is it?
 - How does it feel?
 - How does it smell?
 - What does it remind you of?
- Branches- count how many big branches you see!
 - Do you see any animals in the branches?
 - Are there any nests?
 - Can you reach the first branch?
- Leaves- create a leaf rubbing in your journal!
 - What color is it?
 - What shape is it?
 - How many lobes or fingers does it have?
 - Are its edges smooth?

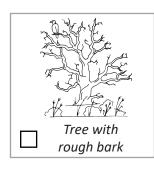


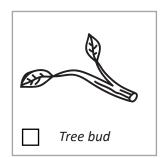
Forest Scavenger Hunt

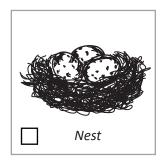
Date: _____

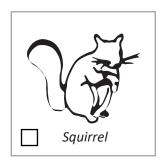
Check the box when you find an item below

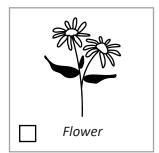


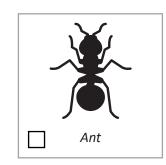




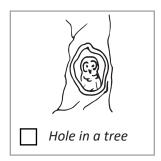


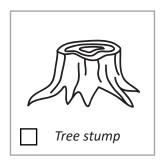


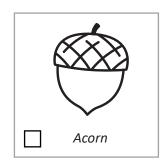


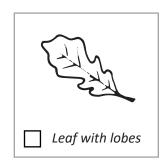


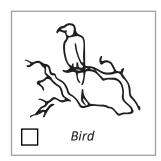


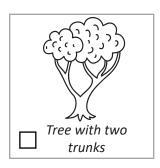
















Some images provided by Vecteezy.com



Sing Along: Parts of a Tree

Lyrics to Parts of a Tree Song

(Sung to the tune of Wheels on the Bus)

Video available online: https://youtu.be/cSiKe5-hyAk

Verse 1:

The roots on the tree go slurp, slurp, slurp slurp, slurp slurp, slurp.

The roots on the tree go slurp, slurp, slurp.

All through the forest.

Verse 2:

The trunk on the tree grows strong and straight, strong and straight, strong and straight.

The trunk on the tree grows strong and straight.

All through the forest.

Verse 3:

The bark on the trunk protects the tree, protects the tree, protects the tree.

The bark on the trunk protects the tree.

All through the forest.

Verse 4:

The branches on the tree reach for the sky, for the sky, for the sky.

The branches on the tree reach for the sky. All through the forest.

Verse 5:

The leaves on the tree make food, food, food, food, food, food, food, food, food.

The leaves on the tree make food, food, food, All through the forest.

