

Trees are Terrific! Lesson/Activity Summaries

Tree Life Cycle and Growth:



Tree Cycle

- Students will talk about what a tree needs to grow and the life cycle. Students will go on a search for tree seeds and then sort what they find
- Students will measure trees using their arms to estimate how old they are and look at a cross section of a tree to count the rings and see how old it was.

Forest Community:



Feathers in the Forest *(Students will learn how birds need the trees)*

- Students will build 3 different bird nests using, pine needles, sticks & leaves
- Go on a bird walk using a bird caller to observe real birds



Forest Friends *(Students will learn how different animals need the trees)*

- Take a short walk following riddles and looking for taxidermy animals
- Be a nature detective to determine whose animal tracks are in the sand pit



Bugs & Slugs *(Students will learn how bugs are important to trees)*

- Play Buggo- a game of bingo with pictures of different critters and learn cool facts.
- Search for living creatures under logs and leaves and see how they are decomposers.

Tree Parts and Natural Resources:



Tree Treasure Hunt (Students will go on a hunt following clues and finding treasure boxes at locations that highlight the parts of the tree and their value to the tree).



Forest Fun (Students will sing songs and play games that cover topics of):

- Tree parts and their purpose
- Animals that live in trees
- What trees need to live

This document outlines the lessons and activities that students participate in during the Camp Woodlands field experience.





Students learn about types of seeds and classify seeds by purpose. By participating in the lesson, students learn that a forest is a community of trees and other living things that work together.

Students measure trees using their arms to estimate how old they are and look at a cross section of a tree to count the rings and see how old it was.





Students will sing songs and play games that discuss tree parts and their purpose, animals that live in trees, and what trees need to live.

Why are Trees Terrific?
Kindergarten Environmental Literacy
What Trees Need

Essential Questions:

- What does a tree need to stay alive?
- How does a tree get food and water?

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- List the five things a tree needs to live.
- Describe how trees get water and food.

Materials:

- Sponge and cup of water
- Cards for Tree Needs game (provided on pages 3 and 4); one card per student
- Bag or basket labeled "Not Needed"

Motivation/Warm-up:

- Take students outside to sit near trees.
- Formative Assessment: Ask students,
 - a. Is a tree a living thing? How do you know? *They grow and change.*
 - b. Do living things have needs? Yes.
 - c. What does a tree need to stay alive? (preassessment)
- Use pictures from page 3 to show five things trees need to survive (stay alive): water, sunlight, air, soil and space.

Instructional Delivery:

- **Water.** Ask students, "How does a tree get water? What part of the tree would get the water from rain that falls on the ground?" Explain that the rain soaks into the ground, and the tree roots suck up water from under the ground for the tree. Demonstrate by placing a dry sponge in a clear plastic cup with a small amount of water in the bottom. Remove sponge to show water has been absorbed.

- Explain that the roots of a tree spread out underground as far as the branches spread out above the ground. Find a tree and have students hold hands and make a circle as large as the branches to show how far the roots spread around the tree.
- Have students sit back down. Ask, "Does a tree eat food the same way we eat food? What kind of food does a tree need?" Explain that a tree makes its own special food using **sunlight, air, and water**. Ask, "What part of the tree do you think the sun shines on to make the food? Why?" (Leaves, because that part gets the most sunlight high up in the tree). Explain that the sun shines on the leaves of trees, and the leaves use that **sunlight** along with **air** and **water** to make food for the tree.
- Tell the students that a tree needs a place to live just like we need a place to live. Ask, "Where do trees live? Go stand in a place where a tree could grow. Why is that a good place?" (Any area with **soil**) "Now point to a place where a tree could not grow." (**No soil** or **no space**: pavement, sand, buildings, a space where another tree or plant is already growing). Explain that trees need **soil** and **space** to grow.

Evidence of Learning: (Formative Assessment) **Tree Needs Game**

- Students sit in a circle near trees. Review five things that trees need to grow: air, soil, water, sunlight and space.
- Give each student a Tree Needs Game card and have them decide whether or not a tree needs the item pictured card.
- While students sing to the tune of "Happy Birthday", "What does a tree need? What does a tree need? What does a tree need? A tree needs five things!" students present their cards to a tree to "give the tree what it needs." Students with cards showing something that the tree does **not** need should put that card in the basket. Discuss the correct and incorrect cards given to the tree.
- Reinforce: Water goes into the tree through the roots; Have students identify the **three things** that the **leaves use to make food for the tree** (air, water and sunlight).

Students learn about the 5 things trees need to survive and describe how trees get water and food.