



Mass Audubon

April Vacation Virtual Camp

Wednesday: Speak for the Trees

Grades 3 to 5

TREMENDOUS TREE ACTIVITIES

What you Need

Paper

Scissors

Pencil, pen or marker

Staying Safe

Look carefully at the plant first to make sure there are no thorns or poison ivy.

Jump Start the Exploration

What do you know about trees?

What do you wonder about trees?

Why are trees important to humans?

Trees and plants are all around us but how often do we stop and appreciate them? Humans benefit from trees and other plants in many ways. They provide us with food (like the maple syrup for our pancakes), cool us off in the summer through shade, protect us from wind in the winter, provide us with shelter, and much more. Trees and plants even produce oxygen that we breath. One large tree can provide a day's supply of oxygen for up to four people.

ACTIVITIES

Tree Tag: Gather your family and explore the trees around you. Choose your own name for each tree: shaggy bark, three leaved, tree with dark spots, etc. Write down the names of each tree. When everyone is ready choose a tagger. The tagger picks a name and calls it out to the group. Everyone has to run to tag one of the trees before the tagger tags them first. If tagged, they become the next tagger.

Earth Day Tree Pledge: Make a tree or draw a tree to hang up in the house or outside. Cut leaves out of recycled magazines, newspapers, and junk mail. Write one or more "Earth Day Pledges" on a "leaf" and tape it to the tree.

Perfect Leaf: Try to find the perfect leaf. Observe your leaf by finishing this sentence: “I notice....”. See how many “I notice” statements you can make. Compare with other leaves. Is it really perfect?

Meet a Tree: Find a partner in your home. Have one person put on a blind fold. Carefully lead your partner to a tree (be careful of branches). The blindfolded person should take a few minutes to feel the bark of the tree. After a few minutes lead the blindfolded partner away from the tree. Have them remove the blindfold and then have them try to find the tree they just met. Switch who wears the blindfold.

Superhero Trees: Imagine your own superhero plant. Each superhero should have at least three superpowers. One power to defend itself from “enemies” (animals that eat plants, animals that step on plants, pests, disease, natural disasters, lawn mowers, etc.). One power that helps it gather nutrients (sun, water, minerals) better and faster than other plants. One power that helps it spread its seeds far, far, far away. Each superhero plant should have a name, an arch enemy, and can have a sidekick. Add all of these elements into a comic drawing. Do any of these ideas already exist in nature?

Talk About Your Learning

What did you discover about trees and other plants?

What do you still wonder about trees and other plants?

Additional Resources

BEETLES Project: [Case of the Disappearing Log](#)

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss [Brightly Storytime](#)

Project Learning Tree: [The Forest of S.T. Shrew](#)

Google Earth: [Virtual Tour of Redwood National Forest](#)