

My Tree Journal

Name _____

My question: “What is a tree?”

1. Draw a tree.

2. What makes it a tree?

Observing My Tree

To make an **observation** means looking at something very closely. You can use your five senses and science tools such as a hand lens to observe.

1. Go outside and look at tree. List your observations.

2. Go to your tree. Walk 20 steps away from your tree. Then draw what your tree looks like from a distance.



A Mouse's View

3. Pretend you are a teeny tiny mouse. What would your tree look like if you were a mouse? Draw your tree from below.



A Bird's View

4. Imagine you are a bird flying above your tree. How would your tree look? Draw your tree from above.

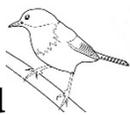
Trees as Habitats

1. Which of these is important in a **habitat**? (Circle)

food water TV shelter computer air

2. How do birds, mammals, insects, and other living things use trees as their habitats?

3. Look at your tree. Which of these do you see in your tree? (circle)

Nest in branches	Woodpecker holes	Hole in trunk	 A bird
Ants	Moss	Brown leaves	Mushroom or fungus
Vine	Seeds	Nuts or acorns 	 Flowers



What do **animals** need to survive? (circle)

food water TV shelter computer air

4. Which animals do you think use your tree?
How do you think they use it?

Animal	How it uses the tree

Leaves

Most deciduous trees have broad leaves that drop in the fall.



Most coniferous trees have needles that stay on the tree all year.



1. Does your tree have **broad leaves** or **needles**?
2. Is your tree **deciduous** or **coniferous**? (Circle)
3. On the next page, draw a picture of a leaf from your tree. Observe one leaf very closely. Draw your leaf with as many details as you can. Make it the size it is.

Check off each detail you draw:

- Size of my leaf
- Shape of my leaf
- Colors of my leaf
- Stem of my leaf
- Veins
- Any holes or missing pieces
- Other details I notice

My Leaf Drawing

Answer some questions about your leaf.

1. What color is your leaf? _____

2. Are the colors the same on both sides? (circle)

yes no somewhat

3. How does your leaf feel? Circle the texture words that describe your leaf.

dry wet bumpy smooth warm cool furry

4. Add some more texture words of your own:

5. What does your leaf smell like?

6. Does it remind you of any other smells?

7. What other characteristics stand out about your leaf? Describe its shape, branching, leaf edges, etc.

8. What is the shape of your leaf? _____

9. Are all of the leaves on your tree the same shape? _____

10. What else do you notice? Are there other characteristics that make this leaf unique?



Seeds

1. Does your tree have seed that you can see right now? (circle)

yes no unsure

If you can't see one of your tree's seeds, look it up online to see what it looks like.

2. What kind of seeds does your tree have? Circle the type of seeds your tree has.

fruit nuts acorns pods "helicopter" seeds cones

3. Observe one of your tree's seeds closely. Carefully draw a picture of one of your tree's seeds, adding as many details as you can.

My Seed Drawing

Twigs

1. Look at your twig. Circle the pattern that most closely matches what you see.



alternate



opposite



whorled

2. Draw a picture of a twig from your tree.
3. Check off the details you have included:

- Color
- Shape
- Size
- Spots, holes, patterns, marks

My Twig Drawing

Bark

1. Observe your tree's bark closely. Feel the texture. Describe it in detail.

2. Take a piece of blank, white paper and hold it flat against your tree's bark. Use the side of a crayon to make a texture rubbing of your bark.
3. When done, you can store that paper in this journal.

Measure Your Tree's Trunk

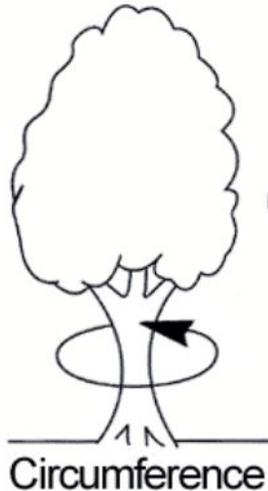
Perimeter is the distance around an object. The perimeter around a circle is called the **circumference**.

1. Work with a partner and wrap a piece of string around your tree's trunk. Make sure the string is level all the way around.
2. While your partner holds the string, carefully cut it where it meets the beginning of the string.
3. Put in your pocket the extra piece of string that you cut off
4. Write your name on a piece of masking tape. Attach the tape to your string.
5. How does the length of your string compare to the strings of the other students? Is your sting

Longer

Shorter

About the same length



The length of your string is the **circumference**, or the length all the way around your tree's trunk.

6. Use Unifix cubes to measure your string.
How many Unifix cubes did you need? _____ cubes
7. Use a measuring tape to measure your string.
How many inches is your string? _____ inches

Remember, the **circumference** is the perimeter around the trunk.
Now measure the circumference of your tree at different heights.

1 foot from the ground = _____ inches

2 feet from the ground = _____ inches

4.5 feet from the ground = _____ inches

Did the width of the trunk: (circle)

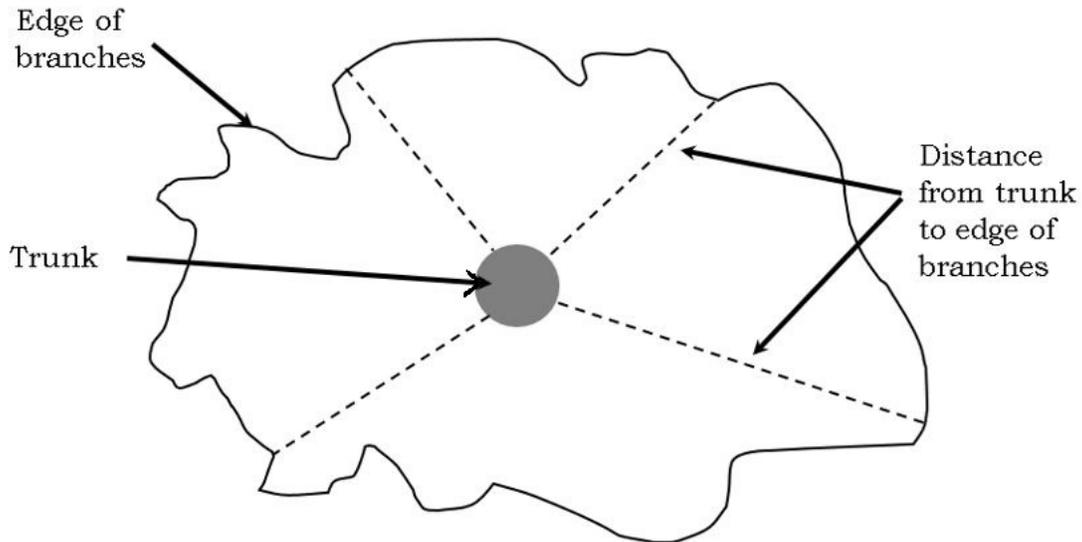
- a. Stay the same
- b. Get wider as you moved up from the ground
- c. Get wider at the bottom
- d. Other: _____

Foresters always measure circumference at 4.5 feet from the ground.
Why do you think they take measurements from this height only?

Measure your tree's average crown spread

All the branches together make up a tree's **crown**.

The **average crown spread** is the average distance that the branches reach away from the trunk.



1. Have a partner hold one end of the tape measure next to the tree's trunk.
2. Pull the tape measure away from the trunk. Stop when you reach where the branches end above you. Record the distance in the table below. Repeat steps 1 and 2 four times.
3. Find the TOTAL by adding the four distances together.
4. Find the average crown spread by dividing the TOTAL by four (the number of measurements you took).

Crown Spread

First measurement	inches
Second measurement	inches
Third measurement	inches
Fourth measurement	inches
TOTAL	inches
Divide the TOTAL by 4 to get the average crown spread	inches

“Poet-tree” Poetry

Sit by your tree. Observe your tree closely. Make a detailed drawing of your tree. Then look around. What else is nearby? Draw the **surroundings**. Include as many details as you can.

Use your observations to write different poetic forms.

Haiku is a Japanese form of poem that has 3 lines.

Line one: 5 syllables *The snow-covered tree*

Line two: 7 syllables *Sparkles under the moonlight*

Line three: 5 syllables *The wind rushes by*

Windspark poems have 5 lines, starting with these prompts.

Line 1: I dreamed *I dreamed*

Line 2: I was *I was a tree*

Line 3: Describe a place *On a hillside*

Line 4: Describe an action *Playing with the wind*

Line 5: An adverb ending in -ly *Joyfully*

Cinquains have five lines

The title is one word, which is the title of the poem

Line 2 has two words, which are adjectives that describe the title.

Line 3 has three words that tell the reader more about the subject of the poem or shows action. Often, these words end in -ing.

Line 4 has four words that show emotions about the subject of the poem and many be individual words or a phrase.

Line 5 is one word that is a synonym of the title or is very similar to it.

Forests

Graceful, growing

*Reaching, stretching
skyward*

*Calmly awaiting the
sunrise*

Alive

Acrostic poems are like acronyms. The first letter in each line, read vertically spells what it is describing. Here is one about a TREE.

***T**owering*

***R**eaching*

***E**xtending*

***E**mbracing the sky*

Diamante poems are diamond-shaped and have 7 lines.

noun
adjective adjective
participle participle participle
noun noun noun noun
participle participle participle
adjective adjective
noun

Seed
Small, buried
Growing, breathing, living
Life, oxygen, shade, habitat
Waiting, reaching, moving
Hopeful, excited
Seedling

Picture poems form a picture of what is happening in the poem. Here's an example of a poem shaped like a tree.

Branches
Shade, happiness, habitat
Paper, wind-break, fuel oxygen
Furniture, tree houses, maple syrup
Parks, nuts, fruit, seeds
Stick forts
Nests
Wood
Home

Roots

Species

Identify your tree's species.

Now that you have closely observed your tree's leaves, twigs and seeds, use a tree identification book or website to identify your tree.

Tree species name

Does your tree have common names? What are they?

I am surprised that

What do you wonder about your tree?

Visiting your tree

Date: _____

How has your tree **changed**?

How has your tree **stayed the same**?

Visiting your tree

Date: _____

How has your tree **changed**?

How has your tree **stayed the same**?

Visiting your tree

Date: _____

How has your tree **changed**?

How has your tree **stayed the same**?

Visiting your tree

Date: _____

How has your tree **changed**?

How has your tree **stayed the same**?



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This journal was designed to accompany Project Learning Tree (PLT) lessons #21 "Adopt-a-Tree," #45 Poet-Tree," #22 "Trees as Habitats," #67 "How Big is Your Tree?" and #68 "Name That Tree."



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