

Trees

Synopsis

K—6th, upper



Summary

Explore the forests of Hartley Park to discover the secrets behind the long lives of trees, including what they need to grow and why some lose their leaves. At the same time, students will brainstorm how trees are necessary in the lives of animals and people alike.

MN Academic Standards

supported during HNC program. More standards can be supported with pre- and post lesson activities.

Science

0.2.1.1.1, 0.4.1.1.1, .0.1.1.2, 0.4.2.1.1, 1.1.1.1.1, 1.1.3.1.1, 2.4.3.1.1, 3.1.1.2.4, 3.4.1.1.1, 3.4.1.1.2, 5.4.1.1.1

Language Arts

0.8.1.1, 0.8.3.3, 1.8.1.1, 1.8.3.3, 2.8.1.1, 2.8.3.3, 3.8.1.1, 3.8.3.3, 4.8.1.1, 4.8.3.3., 5.8.1.1, 5.8.3.3

Social Studies

V.D.1, V.D.5

Math

K.3.1.2

Authenticity

Observe tree species in their natural state/habitat.

Goals & Objectives

This program will:

- Identify the functions and importance of trees
- Guide exploration of Hartley Park tree species in their natural habitat.

Students will be able to:

- Identify the roles trees play in wildlife and human communities
- Describe what a tree needs to survive
- Describe a general lifecycle of a tree
- Identify basic parts and functions of trees
- Differentiate deciduous and coniferous trees

Activities

In the classroom:

- What makes a tree a tree? Brainstorm the parts of a tree (trunk, leaves or needles, bark, roots, etc.). Create a diagram on the board.
- Who needs trees?
- What do trees need? For younger students we will perform Trees Are Magic, which uses a student 'magician' to make a tree appear out of an empty bucket as we add the 'ingredients' of a tree.

In the field:

- Visit many specimens of deciduous and coniferous trees. Compare and contrast parts such as number of needles, shape/size of cones, silhouette of tree, habitat, etc.
- Guide students to discover intriguing marks or unusual signs such as a squirrel cache of pinecones, deer rubs, or beaver chews.

Bad Weather Alternative

Station Rotation of:

- Explore tree parts under microscopes (pinecone scales, leaves in stages of decay, roots, bark, etc.).
- Play games such as Water Transport Relay Race or Maple Seed Mix Up.
- Use branches, seeds, and/or needles or leaves to match with pictures of tree species they belong to (HNC educators will gather these before your arrival).