

Benefits of Trees

GRADES K-2

Guiding Question

What do trees provide for people?

Connecting Concepts

- Living things need water, air, and resources from the land, and they live in places that have the things they need. Humans use natural resources for everything they do. (NGSS, ESS3.A: Natural Resources)
- Different kinds of matter exist. Different properties are suited to different purposes. (NGSS, PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter)
- Forests provide habitat for fish and wildlife. (PLT FLF, 2.A.1)
- Forests are the source of products that people use every day (e.g., paper, tissue, furniture, food, clothing, house framing, and more). (PLT FLF, 2.B.3)

Scope and Sequence

The collection and order of content below supports an intentional student learning progression.

Activity	Description
The Closer You Look	Students go outdoors or view pictures to observe trees and their parts.
Adopt a Tree	Students select individual trees and observe them over time, developing a greater appreciation for trees and the things they provide.
Trees as Habitats	Students inventory the plants and animals—including humans—that live in, on, or around trees.
We All Need Trees	Students examine various products and classify ones that come from trees.

See plt.org/academic-standards for detailed standards correlations for each activity.

Storyline

Students explore some of the many ways that trees benefit humans.

- Begin with the activity **The Closer You Look**, which invites students to examine trees on the schoolyard or in the neighborhood. As students draw their trees, encourage them to think about the functions of a tree's leaves, branches, cones, and other structures. How do these structures help the tree survive? What do these structures provide for people?
- Next, conduct the activity **Adopt a Tree**. By observing an individual tree over time, students can begin to identify relationships between trees and other organisms—including humans.
- Lead students in the activity **Trees as Habitats** to focus on the ways that humans and other animals use and depend on the tree they “adopted.”
- Conclude with **We All Need Trees**, which helps students appreciate all the foods and products in their daily lives that come from trees. Encourage them to sort the products by different characteristics to highlight the different types of benefits trees provide.