


Trees & Me

Reading is Fun! Recommendations

All Reading is Fun! Recommendations below represent titles from all 12 *Trees & Me* activities. They are listed in alphabetical order by author's last name. The relevant *Trees & Me* activity for each title is provided in parentheses.

 = Icon indicates title targets learners under 3 years of age.

Bang, Molly. *When Sophie Gets Angry*. New York: Scholastic, 2004. When Sophie's older sister takes a favorite toy, Sophie climbs a beech tree and finds that nature helps calm her temper. Ages 2–6. ISBN 0590189794. (Activity 2)

Baylor, Byrd. *Everybody Needs a Rock*. New York: Aladdin, 1985. In this delightful story, a child describes the 10 rules for finding your own personal rock. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0689710518. (Activity 8)


Baylor, Byrd. *The Other Way to Listen*. New York: Aladdin, 1997. Presented from the point of view of a young child, the book describes how to listen to the world around us. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0689810539. (Activity 2)

Bishop, Nic. *Forest Explorer: A Life-Size Field Guide*. New York: Scholastic, 2004. This book is a photo collage that explores and depicts many of the plants and animals that live in a forest. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0439174805. (Activity 10)

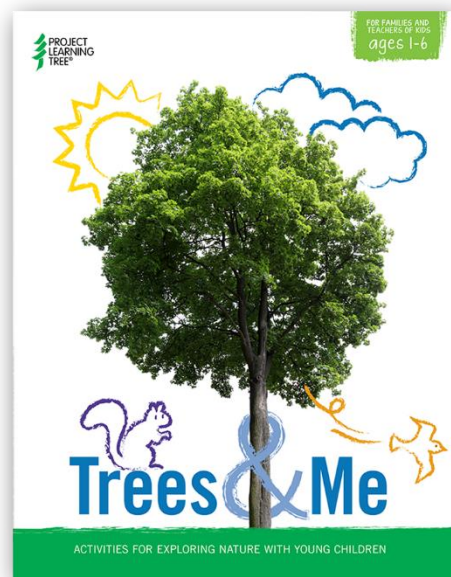
Blomgren, Jennifer. *Where Would I Be in an Evergreen Tree?* Seattle: Sasquatch Books, 2004. This book presents pictures and information about the many animals and plants that find their homes in a northern coniferous forest. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 1570614148. (Activity 6)

Boyd, Lizi. *Flashlight*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2014. In this story without words, a child explores the woods after dark with a flashlight. Ages 3–6. ISBN: 1452118949. (Activity 8)

Brenner, Barbara. *One Small Place in a Tree*. New York: HarperCollins, 2004. A child watches one tiny scratch in a tree develop into a home for a variety of woodland animals over many years, even after the tree has fallen. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 068817180X. (Activity 10)

 **Brown, Margaret Wise.** *The Quiet Noisy Book*. New York: HarperFestival, 2017. Originally published in 1950, the classic story of the little dog, Muffin, shows readers of this board book that sometimes the quietest of sounds are the most important of all. Ages 1–4. ISBN: 0062484664. (Activity 2)

Bulla, Clyde Robert. *A Tree Is a Plant*. New York: HarperCollins, 2016. This Let's-Read-and-Find-Out book follows the growth of an apple tree from seed to maturity. It explains tree parts and functions in simple terms. Ages 4–7. ISBN: 0062382101. (Activity 9)



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Butterworth, Chris. *The Things That I LOVE About Trees.* Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2018. Starting when trees are just getting their new buds in spring, this story follows the cycle of trees through the seasons. Ages 4–7. ISBN: 0763695696. (Activity 7)

Campoy, Isabel. *Maybe Something Beautiful: How Art Transformed a Neighborhood.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016. Based on a true story, this book describes how Mira and a local muralist start a community project together, and how neighbors of all ages and races join in. Ages 4–7. ISBN: 0544357698. (Activity 11)

8 **Carle, Eric.** *My Very First Book of Shapes.* New York: World of Eric Carle, 2005. In this split-page board book, children look for the bottom half of a page that matches the top half to make round ladybugs, diamond-shaped kites, and more. Ages 1–3. ISBN: 0399243879. (Activity 1)

8 **Carle, Eric.** *The Tiny Seed.* New York: Little Simon, 2005. In this classic story, follow a tiny seed on an adventure as it becomes a giant flower. Ages 2–5. ISBN: 068987149X. (Activity 9)

8 **Carle, Eric.** *The Very Hungry Caterpillar's Garden Picnic, A Scratch-and-Sniff Book.* New York: World of Eric Carle, 2020. This board book tells a sweet story about Eric Carle's classic character eating through his favorite foods, and includes six scents for added fun. Ages 1–3. ISBN: 0593097041. (Activity 4)

8 **Carle, Eric.** *The Very Quiet Cricket.* New York: Philomel, 1997. A small cricket hatches and is greeted by other insects in this board book, but nothing happens when he rubs his wings together—until he spies another cricket and chirps a beautiful sound. Ages 2–4. ISBN: 0399226842. (Activity 2)

Casey, Dawn. *Apple Cake: A Gratitude.* London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2019. In this simple rhyming story, a child says thank you for the gifts nature provides— including apples from the tree and eggs from the hens—until the family has the ingredients for a delicious apple cake. Ages 3–5. ISBN: 071124779X. (Activity 12)

Cole, Henry. *Nesting.* New York: Katherine Tegen Books, 2020. This stunning picture book follows two robins as they build a nest, keep the eggs warm, and protect their babies. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0062885928. (Activity 10)

8 **Colombe, Rose.** *Forest: Touch and Feel.* Rolling Meadows, IL: Cottage Door Press, 2019. Smell the raccoon's spruce tree, touch the owl's feathers, and feel the bear's sticky honey. Meet different forest friends in this sense-filled interactive book. Ages 1–3. ISBN: 1680527371. (Activity 3)

Corr, Christopher. *Deep in the Woods.* London: Francis Lincoln Children's Books, 2017. A little wooden house, with nine neat windows and a red front door, lies deep in the woods. When a little mouse decides it will make the perfect home, so do the other animals—including a big bear! See what happens next in this retelling of a classic Russian folk tale. Ages 3–6. ISBN: 1847807267. (Activity 4)

Cottin, Menena, and Rosana Faria. *The Black Book of Colors.* Toronto, ON: Groundwood Books, 2008. Colors are described by blind children, as they use other senses to tell how the colors smell, sound, taste, or feel. This book features raised images printed with black ink on black paper and the text is printed with both Braille and English words. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0888998732. (Activity 3)

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Cumpiano, Ina. *Quinito's Neighborhood/El Vecindario de Quinito*. San Francisco: Children's Book Press, 2009. This bilingual book introduces children to the concept of community. It takes children on a tour through a young boy's vibrant community, introducing them to some of its members. Ages 4–7. ISBN: 0892392290. (Activity 11)

Dodds, Dayle Ann. *The Shape of Things*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 1996. A square is just a square until it becomes a house in this clever book. A circle becomes a spinning Ferris wheel, and a diamond with some string and a tail becomes a kite flying high in the sky. Through rhymes and illustrations, this book reveals that shapes are everywhere. Ages 3–5. ISBN: 1564026981. (Activity 1)

Ehlert, Lois. *Leaf Man*. Boston: Harcourt Children's Books, 2005. With a body made of fallen leaves and acorns for eyes, Leaf Man takes off from a backyard and flutters away on the breeze, meandering past animals, over fields of fall vegetables, above waterways, and across prairie meadows. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0152053042. (Activity 5)

Ehlert, Lois. *Nuts to You!* Orlando, FL: Voyager Books, 2004. Learn about the misadventures of a rascally city squirrel who sneaks inside an apartment window. Textural illustrations depict the story, while labels on each page identify plants, birds, and insects. Ages 3–7. ISBN: 0152050647. (Activity 3)

Ehlert, Lois. *Pie in the Sky*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt Children's Books, 2004. A father and child watch the cherry tree in their backyard, waiting until they have ripe cherries to bake in a pie. The book includes a recipe for cherry pie. Ages 3–7. ISBN: 0152165843. (Activity 4)

Florian, Douglas. *Handsprings: Poems and Paintings*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2006. These 29 poems about spring are illustrated with watercolors and extol the many virtues of springtime. Ages 5–8. ISBN: 0060092807. (Activity 7)

Fredericks, Anthony D. *Tall, Tall Tree: A Nature Book for Kids About Forest Habitats*. Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 2017. High in a redwood tree, readers meet an unseen world of all kinds of animals and count them 1 to 10. Ages 3–8. ISBN: 1584696028. (Activity 8)

8 Garnett, Jaye. *Who: Peek-a-Flap Board Book*. Rolling Meadows, IL: Cottage Door Press, 2016. Peek and explore in the forest, where you'll meet all sorts of animal friends. Ages 1–5. ISBN: 168052125X. (Activity 10) (Activity 10)

Gibbons, Gail. *Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees for Kids*. Boston: Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2002. This large-format guide discusses the parts of a tree and their functions, the growth of trees, and the different types of trees. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0316309036. (Activity 9)

Glaser, Linda. *It's Spring!* Brookfield, CT: Millbrook Press, 2002. Simple text and bold paper sculpture convey the animal life, plant life, weather, and clothing, as well as the colors and feelings, associated with spring. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0761313451. (Activity 7)

Hall, Kirsten. *Snow Birds*. New York: Abrams Books, 2020. Through rhyming verse and striking illustrations, this book celebrates the resourceful birds who persevere through winter's snowy weather and freezing temperatures. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 1419742035. (Activity 6)

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Hawk, Fran. *Count Down to Fall.* Mount Pleasant, SC: Arbordale, 2013. Counting backwards from 10, this book depicts colorful fall leaves, the trees from which they fall, and animals getting ready for winter. Ages 4–7. ISBN: 1934359947. (Activity 5)

8 **Henkes, Kevin.** *In the Middle of Fall.* New York: Greenwillow Books, 2018. This board book introduces the unique beauty of the fall season. Watch the world transform as a gust of wind turns the whole world to yellow, red, and orange. Ages 1–4. ISBN: 0062747266. (Activity 5)

8 **Henkes, Kevin.** *When Spring Comes.* New York: Greenwillow Books, 2018. In this beautiful board book for young children, striking imagery, repetition, and alliteration introduce the transformation from quiet, cold winter to spring. Ages 1–4. ISBN: 0062741667. (Activity 7)

Holub, Joan. *Seed School: Growing Up Amazing.* Seagrass Press, 2018. While some of the seed friends in this story seem to sprout and grow up in just one season, one odd-looking seed with a cap takes many years to become the strong oak he was destined to be. Ages 4–7. ISBN: 1633223744. (Activity 9)

Hopkins, H. Joseph. *The Tree Lady: The True Story of How One Tree-Loving Woman Changed a City Forever.* San Diego: Beach Lane Books, 2013. Motivated by the love she'd felt for trees since childhood, Katherine Olivia Session transformed San Diego's City Park from a dry hillside into a lush garden beneath a beautiful canopy of trees. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 1442414022. (Activity 11)

Hutchins, Pat. *Good-Night, Owl!* New York: Macmillan, 1990. This humorous story looks at an owl's daytime attempt to sleep in a tree shared with a variety of noisy wildlife. Ages 3–8. ISBN: 0689713711. (Activity 10)

Jones, Andrea Koehle. *The Wish Trees.* Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2008. Every child can help make the world a better place. In this book, children plant "wish trees" and discover the wonder of trees. Ages 3–5. ISBN: 1434392058. (Activity 8)

Lamba, Marie, and Baldev Lamba. *Green Green: A Community Gardening Story.* New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2017. In this sweet story written in rhyming couplets, the children of a diverse city neighborhood come together to build a garden for everyone to share. Ages 2–5. ISBN: 0374327971. (Activity 11)

Leavell, Chuck, and Nicholas Cravotta. *The Tree Farmer.* Lorton, VA: VSP Books, 2005. A grandfather who owns a tree farm takes his grandson on a magical journey through the forest, where trees become musical instruments, books, a baby's crib, and more. The story highlights the vital role that trees play in our lives. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 1893622169. (Activity 12)

8 **Lionni, Leo.** *A Little Book About Spring.* New York: Random House, 2019. Discover the wonders of spring—from budding trees and chirping birds to croaking frogs—in this delightful board book. Ages 1–3. ISBN: 0062741667. (Activity 7)

Luyken, Corinna. *The Tree in Me.* New York: Dial, 2021. Through poetic text and exquisite illustrations of children reveling in nature, this picture book explores the various ways that human beings are strong and connected to others—just like trees. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 593112598. (Activity 3)

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Malnor, Carol L. *Wild Ones: Observing City Critters*. Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 2016. A curious dog Scooter travels through an urban landscape, seeing—and not seeing—many wild animals. Charming illustrations draw upon real-life city scenes from across the United States. Ages 4–7. ISBN: 1584695536. (Activity 11)

Marshal, Pam. *From Tree to Paper*. Minneapolis: Lerner Publishing Group, 2013. How does a tree become a book? Through photos and words, follow each step in the process—from planting a tree to the final product. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 146770797X. (Activity 12)

Matheson, Christie. *Tap the Magic Tree*. New York: Greenwillow Books, 2016. With this interactive board book, children tap, shake, jiggle, and even blow a kiss to help a lonely tree change through the seasons. Ages 1–3. ISBN: 0062274465. (Activity 8)

Messner, Kate. *Over and Under the Snow*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2011. Over the snow, the world is hushed and white, but under the snow is a secret world of squirrels and snowshoe hares, bears and bullfrogs, and many others living outside during the winter. Ages 5–8. ISBN: 0811867846. (Activity 6)

Milbourne, Anna. *Peep Inside a Tree*. London: Usborne, 2018. This board book follows the growth of a tiny acorn into a beautiful old oak tree. Look under leaves and between branches to discover all kinds of creatures living there. Ages 1–3. ISBN: 147493384X. (Activity 9)

Miller, Debbie S. *Are Trees Alive?* New York: Walker, 2002. An introduction to trees that compares parts of a tree with parts of the human body. The story features people and trees from all over the world. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0802788017. (Activity 9)

Mora, Pat. *Pablo's Tree*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1994. Each year on his birthday, a young Mexican-American boy looks forward to seeing how his grandfather has decorated the tree he planted on the day the boy was adopted. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0027674010. (Activity 12)

Mortensen, Lori. *In the Trees, Honey Bees!* Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 2009. This introduction to a wild colony of honeybees offers close-up views of the queen, the cells, even bee eggs, and an understanding of their lives. Ages 4–10. ISBN: 1584691158. (Activity 4)

Muldrow, Diane. *We Planted a Tree*. New York: Dragonfly Books, 2016. Simple text reveals the benefits of planting a single tree, both to those who see it grow and to the world as a whole. Ages 3–7. ISBN: 0553539035. (Activity 9)

Murray, Diana. *City Shapes*. New York: Little, Brown Books, 2016. A young girl walks through her neighborhood, noticing exciting new shapes, from the shimmering skyscrapers to fluttering kites to twinkling stars high in the sky. Ages 3–7. ISBN: 0316370924. (Activity 1)

Muth, Jon J. *Hi, Koo!: Year of Seasons*. New York: Scholastic, 2014. Join a panda named Koo and two human siblings as they help to stretch the imagination with 26 haikus about the four seasons. Ages 4–7. ISBN: 0545166683. (Activity 5)

Nagara, Innosanto. *Counting on Community*. Salem, OR: Triangle Square, 2015. This counting board book describes different members of the community (“Three urban farmers, knee-deep in the mud”) that help people live there. Ages 1–4. ISBN: 609806328. (Activity 11)

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Pak, Kenard. *Goodbye Autumn, Hello Winter.* New York: Holt, 2017. A brother and sister explore nature and stroll through their town, saying goodbye to autumn and welcoming the first snow of winter. Ages 3–6. ISBN: 1627794166. (Activity 5)

Priceman, Marjorie. *How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World.* New York: Dragonfly Books, 1996. From the jungles of Sri Lanka to the apple orchards of Vermont, the energetic little baker searches far and wide to find the finest ingredients for her apple pie. Use a globe or map to add a social studies element to the story. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0679880836. (Activity 4)

Priddy, Richard. *Bright Baby Touch and Feel Winter.* New York: St. Martin's Publishing Group, 2011. This delightful board book invites babies and toddlers to explore the magical sights and textures of winter, including a sparkling snowflake and a winter forest. Ages 1-3. ISBN: 0312509766. (Activity 6)

Ritchie, Scot. *Look Where We Live! A First Book of Community Building.* Toronto: Kids Can Press, 2015. A group of friends work together to raise money for their local library. In the process, they learn about the place and people that make up their community. Ages 4–7. ISBN: 1771381027. (Activity 11)

Rotner, Shelley, and Ken Kreisler. *Nature Spy.* New York: Atheneum, 2014. A child takes a close-up look at various aspects of nature, including an acorn, the golden eye of a frog, and an empty hornet's nest. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 1481450425. (Activity 1)

Sanders, Scott Russell. *Meeting Trees.* Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2018. During a long walk through the forest with his father, a young boy discovers the wonders of nature as he learns about different kinds of trees and their special characteristics. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0253034787. (Activity 8)

Sayre, April Pulley. *Trout Are Made of Trees.* Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2008. Two young children and their dads find out how a leaf can become a fish, as they observe life in and around a stream. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 1580891381. (Activity 5)

Sheehy, Shawn. *Welcome to the Neighborwood.* Somerville, MA: Candlewick, 2015. This stunning pop-up book takes readers from neighborhood to neighborwood. It introduces readers to several different woodland animals and explores their unique skills and behaviors that enable them to thrive where they live. Ages 4–8. ISBN: 0763665940. (Activity 10)

Showers, Paul. *The Listening Walk.* New York: HarperCollins, 1999. A young girl takes a quiet walk with her father and identifies the different sounds they hear. Ages 3–6. ISBN: 0064433226. (Activity 2)

Sidman, Joyce. *Swirl by Swirl: Spirals in Nature.* New York: HMH Books for Young Readers, 2011. What makes a tiny snail shell so beautiful? Poetic verse and stunning illustrations celebrate the beauty and usefulness of the spiral shape in nature. Ages 4–7. ISBN: 054731583X. (Activity 1)

Snyder, Betsy E. *Have You Ever Tickled a Tiger?* New York: Random House, 2009. This book asks if readers have ever kissed a walrus, poked a penguin, or hugged an octopus, among others. Rhyming couplets accompany illustrations with textures to feel. Ages 1–4. ISBN: 0375843965. (Activity 3)


Stein, David. *Leaves.* New York: Putnam, 2007. A young bear cub tries to make sense of changing and falling leaves. He uses fallen leaves as bedding for a long winter's sleep, only to wake and find the tree has leafed out. Ages 2–5. ISBN: 0399246363. (Activity 7)

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Taylor, Sean, and Alex Morss. *Winter Sleep: A Hibernation Story*. London: words & pictures, 2019. Follow a child and his grandma through a winter landscape to explore how the Earth goes to sleep for winter. Ages 5–7. ISBN: 0711242844. (Activity 6)

Teckentrup, Britta. *Tree: A Peek-Through Picture Book*. New York: Doubleday, 2016. Through a hole in the book's cover, an owl invites readers inside to meet a tree and all its forest inhabitants during the changing seasons. Ages 3–6. ISBN: 1101932422. (Activity 8)

 **Thank You, Tree. North Adams, MA: Storey Publishing, 2021.** With every page of this board book, children see a wonderful tree, learn its name, and thank it for its gifts. Ages 1–3. ISBN: 1635864267. (Activity 11)

Thong, Roseanne. *Round Is a Tortilla: A Book of Shapes*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2015. This picture book follows the lives of two young Mexican-American children as they discover shapes all around them: from rectangle ice-cream carts to triangle slices of watermelon. Ages 3–5. ISBN: 1452145687. (Activity 1)


 **Touch and Feel: Shapes. London: DK Children, 2013.** Toddlers can touch and feel circles, squares, triangles, and other shapes as they explore the fascinating tactile pictures in this board book. Ages 1–3. ISBN: 1465409201. (Activity 1)

Udry, Janice May. *A Tree Is Nice*. New York: Harper & Row, 1956. With a simple message, this book describes the importance of trees to people and wildlife. Ages 3–7. ISBN: 0064431479. (Activity 12)

Underwood, Deborah. *Outside In*. Boston: HMH Books for Young Readers, 2020. This thought-provoking picture book explores the many ways that we are connected to nature and the outdoors, even as we live indoors. Ages 4–7. ISBN: 1328866823. (Activity 12)

VanVoorst, Jenny Fretland. *Trees in Spring*. Minneapolis: Jump!, 2016. Vibrant, full-color photos depict how trees respond to changes in spring by growing leaves and flowers. Ages 4–6. ISBN: 1620314819. (Activity 7)

Wenzel, Brendan. *A Stone Sat Still*. San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2019. This is the story of a seemingly ordinary rock—but to the animals around it, it is a resting place, a kitchen, a safe haven, and even an entire world. The narrative and textural illustrations explore perspective, perception, and the passage of time. Ages 3–5. ISBN: 1452173184. (Activity 3)

 **Yee, Wong Herbert. *Tracks in the Snow*. New York: Square Fish, 2007.** In this celebration of snow and winter, a little girl follows tracks outside her window after a fresh snowfall, only to discover that they are hers from the day before. Ages 2–6. ISBN: 0312371349. (Activity 6)

Yolen, Jane. *Owl Moon*. New York: Penguin Group (USA), 1987. A girl and her father go owling on a moonlit winter night near the farm where they live. Learn about what they see and hear hidden in ink-blue shadows. Ages 3–8. ISBN: 0399214577. (Activity 6)