



Children increase awareness, understanding and connection with trees in the neighbourhood.

Trees are Cool

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Keywords trees lesson • outdoors lesson • maths • observation • family

- 1 Develop a lesson to illustrate the following benefits of trees:
 - Leaves give off oxygen, the 'good air' that all animals (including people) need to live.
 - Leaves give shelter to birds and provide a great hiding place and material for nesting.
 - Leaves create litter, which makes excellent compost and fertiliser that adds nutrients to the soil.
 - Leaves and bark are food and home to many animals, which in turn are food of other animals.
 - The trunk is a good base for lichens, mosses, fungi and even small flowering plants, to grow on.
 - The fruit is excellent food for many animals (and people).
 - Trees grow flowers, which produce nectar that attracts many insects like butterflies, moths, bees and wasps; in some countries even bats, birds, lizards and monkeys drink nectar from trees.
 - Trees create a shady, damp environment, which several plants, fungi and animals like.
 - Roots hold the soil in place, preventing landslides, mud slides, soil erosion and desertification.
- 2 Prepare for a visit to some trees in the neighbourhood:
 - Go through the *My New Friend* file (Downloadable Material) with the children.
 - Make a clinometer.
 - Plan a safe route to take your class to meet some neighbourhood trees.
 - Make copies of worksheet *Knowing My Tree* (**Resource File**)
 - Prepare materials and suitable gear for your walk (box below)
- 3 Pair the children before setting off and give each pair a worksheet. Go through worksheet along route, and on site assign one tree per pair/group. Before leaving the site, give the trees a thank-you hug for all the things they do for us!
- 4 Back in class, make a display using the tree photos and information. Leave space on the display for homework: ask the children to take a photo of a nice tree they have seen near their home or when out with their family. They bring the photo to class and add it to the photo collage. This part of the activity ensures family engagement with the children's appreciation of trees.

☐ worksheet	☐ ruler	☐ string
☐ clipboard	☐ tape measure	☐ tablet or camera
☐ clinometer	☐ trundle wheel	☐ gloves

Use the Dinja Wahda Notice Board and tell the school about what you're doing.

Send photos of

- ☐ tree benefits lesson
 ☐ display
- ☐ children investigating neighbourhood trees

