

My Adopted Tree (Late Summer, Early Fall and Mid Spring)

Adapted from PLT Nature Activities for Families: Connecting Kids to Nature (Elementary)

Activity 21: "Adopt a Tree"

Activity 67: "How Big Is Your Tree?"

Activity 78: "Signs of Fall"

Activity 65: "Bursting Buds"

*File Folder Design adapted from Sharon Gallant (Maine
Master Naturalist)*

Materials:

File Folder for each student

Crayons

Construction Paper

Scissors

Tape Measure

Glue

5' piece of string

Pencil

Scotch Tape

Copy Paper

6" plastic ruler

Instructions:

1. Find an area that has several tree saplings for students to choose from.
 2. Students should photograph their tree, pose next to their tree, and be able to tell you why they are adopting it for observation.
 3. Tag the saplings for identification (number them?) and visit the trees three times during the year for observations
 4. Fold the file folder so that it has 4 panels.
 - a) **Front Panels: *My Adopted Tree*** – Have students photograph their tree, and describe their tree.
 - b) **Inside Left Panel: *How Big is Your Tree?*** – Students measure the height and circumference of their tree both in fall and in spring. Make an Hypothesis and a Conclusion.
 - c) **Inside Center Panel (Left): *Signs of Fall /Bursting Buds or Leaves***– Photograph a leaf or do a leaf rubbing AND Photograph a branch, bursting buds or new leaves
 - d) **Inside Center Panel (Right): *Bursting Buds or Flowers*** – Students photograph the bursting buds or new flowers on their tree.
 - e) **Inside Right Panel: *Fall and Springtime Observations***
- Back Panels: *My Tree Poem* and *My Tree and Me*** (photo of student with their tree.)

My Adopted Tree

Student Name: _____

Tree Name: _____

Scientific Name: _____

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My Adopted Tree

Date: EARLY SEPTEMBER _____

Season: LATE SUMMER

Location: _____

I adopted this tree because:

My tree has these characteristics:

Bark color: _____

Bark Texture (How does it feel?)

Tree Type: Circle the one that your tree is.

Conifer (pine tree with needles) - Evergreen –
has needles (leaves) all year.

Deciduous tree – Loses its leaves in the fall.

How Big Is My Tree?

Date: MID OCTOBER _____

Season: FALL (AUTUMN)

Height: _____ Feet

Circumference: _____ Inches

Hypothesis: I (do / do not) think that my tree will grow during the winter because

Date: EARLY MAY _____

Season: MID-SPRING

Height: _____ Feet

Circumference: _____ Inches

Growth Difference over the winter:

Spring Height _____ ft. **minus** Fall Height _____ ft. =
Total Growth _____ ft

Conclusion: My tree (did / did not) grow over the winter. I can tell that my tree is still alive because

Signs of Fall

A leaf from my tree – Photo or Leaf Rubbing

Bursting Buds or new leaves on my tree (Spring)

A photo or drawing of buds or a new leaf on my tree.

Signs of Fall

A photo or drawing of a branch from my tree.

Bursting Buds or Flowers on my tree (Spring)

A photo or drawing of buds OR a flower on my tree

Fall Observations

(Neat things that I see on or around my tree)

Springtime Observations

(Neat things that I see on or around my tree)

My Tree Poem

My Tree and Me

(Photo)