

Print double sided. Cut on the red lines. Fold on the dotted lines.

Trees

by Gwen Nicodemus

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Draw a picture of your favorite tree below.

Trees are perennial, woody plants that have trunks and are usually tall.

Perennial means that the tree lives from year to year instead of dying in the winter.



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Trees are usually over 20 feet tall, but they do not have to be that tall to be considered a tree.

Shrubs are usually smaller than trees.

This is a leaf from a maple tree floating in the water.

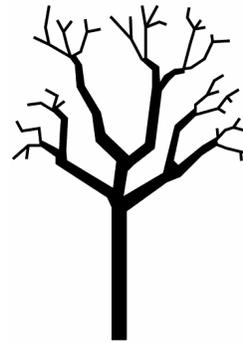


Tree leaves are important because they fall to the ground and decompose. The leaves are eaten as food by some critters and bacteria break down some of the leaf. Eventually the leaf totally decomposes and enriches the soil where it fell.

Draw what you think a decomposing leaf looks like, or find one and tape it to this page.

10

Trees have trunks. The trunk is the main “branch” of the tree that grows stronger than the rest and is dominant. Having a strong main branch is called apical dominance. Each branch is also dominant to the branches that come off of it. Apical dominance is the biggest difference between trees and bushes.



3

Look at the trees around where you live. Which ones are evergreen and which ones are deciduous? Which tree below is an evergreen and which is deciduous?



8

When large trees are cut down you can see how the tree grew outwards by looking at the tree’s growth rings.



5

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Most trees today are exogenous. That means that they grow outward. Every year the trunk of the tree gets bigger on the outside.



4

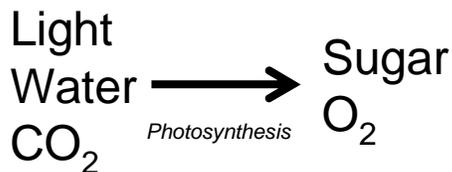
Tree leaves can be fun.

What can you think to do with this pile of leaves?



9

Trees have leaves. Leaves are the main part of plants that produce food. Plants produce food through a process called photosynthesis. Photo means "light" and synthesis means "to create." Plants use light, water, and carbon dioxide to make sugar and oxygen.



6

Some trees keep their leaves all year long. These trees are called evergreen or coniferous trees. Trees that lose their leaves in the Autumn are called deciduous trees.

What type of tree do you think this one is?



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