



TREE FUN FOR KIDS

(AND THEIR PARENTS)

Map Your Home Forest

1

Look at all the trees around your home, down your street, and around the corner. For these trees this is their home forest.



Trees Help Create Clean, Safe, Healthy Communities

Alliance for Community Trees (ACTrees) is dedicated to improving the health and livability of cities by planting and caring for trees. With nearly 200 member organizations in 42 states and Canada, ACTrees engages volunteers to take action to improve the environment where 80% of people live - in cities, towns and metropolitan areas.

Together, ACTrees member organizations have planted and cared for over 15 million trees with help from over 5 million volunteers.

Learn more at www.ACTrees.org

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Hug a Tree

2

What would a tree "look" like if your eyes were closed and you were just seeing it with your hands?



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Do All Trees Look Alike?

3

If you were a Martian and walked around, all humans might look the same to you. Sometimes we don't pay enough attention to see the differences between the trees around us.



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Map Your Home Forest

Choose a tree and draw a map of your home forest from the tree's point of view, starting with what is most important to trees.

1. Draw your tree.
2. Draw circles to show the other trees in your neighborhood. Are they close or far away from each other? Are some bigger?
3. Is there any water? Trees like water.
4. Add nests or other animal homes.
5. Add any bushes and other plants.
6. Now the roads. Roads are places where trees can't grow their roots, but they can help give shade with their branches.
7. Now add the buildings. Are there any places that are so shady that it's hard for trees to grow?

If you were a tree, would you like living here? Is there anything that would make it better?



Together, we can make our neighborhoods cleaner, greener and healthier by planting and caring for trees.

Trees have incredible impact on our communities. They clean our air, shade our homes, provide habitat for birds and animals and beautify our neighborhoods. Some of the many benefits of trees include:

- Lower childhood asthma rates
- Reduced utility bills
- Higher property values
- Better concentration and attention for children
- Slower driving and safer streets
- Lower crime and vandalism

Learn more about how you can protect and grow the urban forest in your community by finding Alliance for Community Trees member organizations in your city at www.ACTrees.org

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TREE FUN FOR KIDS

3

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Do All Trees Look Alike?

Take a walk and look at the trees around where you live.

1. Which is the tallest tree? The shortest?
2. What colors are their leaves? Are some leaves bigger? Smaller? Do you see different shapes?
3. Do any have flowers? Seeds?
4. Look at the bark. If you have paper and a pencil or crayon, you can make a rubbing of the pattern & compare it to another tree. What are the differences in pattern?
5. Do any animals live in the trees? Or do they visit? Do you see birds? Insects? Squirrels?
6. How many different types of trees do you see?

When you go somewhere else, see how the trees are different from the ones in your neighborhood.



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TREE FUN FOR KIDS

2

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Hug a Tree

Start somewhere with lots of trees around. Put on a blindfold and let someone else spin you around and CAREFULLY lead you to a tree. Ask your friend to give warnings like "going downhill" or "watch out for rocks coming up".

With your blindfold on, take several minutes to feel your tree on all sides, as high and low as you can reach. Try to memorize how the tree feels so that you can find it later. When done, your friend should lead you back to the starting point, using a roundabout path and spinning a couple of times.

Now, remove the blindfold and see if you can find your tree. Then you can switch with the other person and repeat.

Did the tree look the way you thought it would?



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