



The Giving Tree

OBJECTIVE:

To demonstrate all of the parts of a tree and explore how each of these parts are used to make a wide variety of common products.

BACKGROUND:

How do we use trees? Besides using a tree to swing from or as a good source of shade, we also use many everyday products made from different parts of a tree. Together, begin to brainstorm all of the parts of a tree, listing all eight parts. (Leaves, wood, bark, roots, flowers, fruits, seeds, sap) Then discuss some of the different products we use everyday from tree parts.

TREE PART PROPS:



Leaves – an umbrella with paper leaves attached

Wood – a small piece of wood with a long string attached to wear as a necklace

Bark – a vest made from a paper grocery bag, decorated with squiggly lines to resemble patterned bark.

Roots – rope tied together at different lengths with knots in it tied at the student's feet.

Flowers – a headband decorated with small yellow, green, or white flowers made from pipe cleaners.

Fruits – fruit shapes cut out of construction paper and hung on loops of string to hang over the students outstretched arms

Seeds – gloves with paper cut outs of seeds attached to each finger

Sap – two jugs of water to shake

ACTIVITY:

1. Assemble the pretend parts of a tree as directed in the prop parts.
2. Ask the students to brainstorm a list of all the things that trees give us and write down a list.
3. Have the students list the eight different parts of the tree: leaves, wood, bark, roots, flowers, fruits, seeds, sap.

MATERIALS

Umbrella

Paper leaves

Small piece of wood

Yarn

Paper bag

Markers

Rope

Hat

Flowers

Plastic fruit

Gloves

Paper seeds

Syrup

Tape

4. As each part is mentioned, have one student come to the front of the class to "wear" that part of the tree.
5. Once each part is represented in front of the class, start matching items from their lists' to the different parts of the tree.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES:

1. Ask students to compare the parts of a tree to the parts of a flower.
2. Ask students to discuss different types of trees and where they can be found around the world.
3. Have students draw pictures of trees in different parts of the world.
4. Have students conduct a trees product inventory in their homes by surveying each room for products make from trees.
5. Try some unusual edible tree treats such a mangos, pomegranates, dried figs, whole coconuts, kiwi fruit or papaya.



TREE PRODUCTS:

Leaves – tea, oxygen, mulch, shade

Wood – wooden objects and paper products

Bark – cinnamon, cork bulletin boards

Roots – sassafras tea

Flowers – cloves, herbal teas, perfume

Fruits – avocados, chocolate, furniture polish, Spices: allspice, nutmeg, mace, figs, olives

Seeds – nuts: pistachios, macadamia, almonds, coconuts

Sap – maple syrup, rubber gloves, tires, balls, bands, chewing gum, paint, soap



*This project is an adaptation from Shelburne Farms Project Seasons, 1995.