

Arbor Day Ideas

- ❖ Knot tying instruction using the basic knots, like bowline, clove hitch, granny, etc. This is good for general life, though arborists and ropes/knots are synonymous. Can scale up and down the difficulty based on age groups
- ❖ Reading tree/arboreal day based books to small children. Lorax, Arbor Day Square, Giving tree , Etc.
- ❖ Teach kids about the process of making paper and then follow up with a paper airplane competition for various prizes
- ❖ Do a slideshow of crazy tree pictures that usually sparks several discussions from the children
- ❖ "What Trees Do for Us" presentation that was tailored to 3-5th graders, but can be altered for any age student.
- ❖ Throw line competitions, use an arborist throw line to see which student can get the rope to a specific branch in a tree.
- ❖ Tree climbing with a certified arborist
- ❖ "making paper" project
- ❖ Tap maple trees and make syrup; serve over ice-cream for Arbor Day. Must start way before Arbor Day. Takes a lot of raw syrup to get a small amount of enjoyable syrup.
- ❖ Have students form a line that represents the tallest tree in the world. Then have the students get into a circle that represents the largest diameter tree in the world.
- ❖ Build tree necklaces out of small tree cookies. Drill holes in the tree cookies and use string to form the necklace. Have the students count the rings. Talk about open grown trees vs. a crowded forest. Let them color their tree cookie.
- ❖ Have a banner or board with pictures of different types of fruit trees. Have cutout fruit pictures laminated with velcro attached to the back of the pictures. Ask the students to match up the fruit with the tree.
- ❖ Identify ten different trees by leaves, bark, shape, wood, etc. Sample tree products: maple syrup, apples, nuts. Determine which tree parts you're eating.



- ❖ Explore how much wood is used to produce an issue of your favorite comic book or newspaper. Investigate rates of recycling and reforestation. Graph your data.
- ❖ Make wooden bird houses, feeders or jewelry. Create handmade paper greeting cards. Design creatures from cones, twigs and other tree parts.
- ❖ Do a scavenger hunt looking for different things related to trees. Cones, leaves, young trees, old trees, weird shaped trees, etc.
- ❖ Explain how things are named in science; Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species. Divide students up by boys and girls, then hair color, then eye color, etc.

- ❖ Erosion control; have two troughs, one with bare soil and one with soil covered with sod/tree branches (to represent trees). At one end of the troughs have a hole to allow water to drain. Have students pour water into the other end of the trough and collect the water as it pours out of the hole. Note the color of the water and how much ran off. Talk about the scientific method.



- ❖ Tree seed game. Seven cards with all of the things a seed needs to grow (green color). Five cards with things that make a seed die or go away (red color). Put seven cards in an envelope; all but one or two have a red card. Shows that out of hundreds of seeds, only a few survive.

- ❖ Create a rubbing of your favorite leaf or bark using canyons and paper

- ❖ Make and or decorate tree cookies

- ❖ Organize a tree bike ride of notable trees around town

- ❖ Do a fun run centered around trees for your community

- ❖ Mason Jar soil test-
<https://utah.agclassroom.org/files/uploads/fileguide1/texture.pdf>

- ❖ **Recite Books, Poems:** The Lorax (Dr. Seuss); Arbor Day Square (Kathryn Galbreith); Trees poem (Joyce Kilmer)



- ❖ Pre-K:
 - *How does a tree grow?* Have children pretend they are a tree – starting from seed by crunching in ball near the ground, then sapling by crouching and pointing out fingers, eventually into a big tree with arms fully extended as branches.
 - **Way Up High** This is an action poem to do with the children
Way up high in the apple tree (reach both arms up to the ceiling)
Two little apples smiled down at me (make fists with both hands)
I climbed that tree as high as I could (pretend to climb the tree)
And picked those two apples (pretend to pick the apples)
Yum! They were good! (Rub your stomach).
- ❖ 1-5th Grade: *Tree Trivia*
 - 3 things needed for trees to grow? (sunlight, water, soil)
 - What do trees give us? (Shade; oxygen; shelter; food i.e. fruits, nuts; etc.)
 - What kinds of things are made from trees? (baseball bats, pencils, furniture, maple syrup, houses, paper, violins/guitars, popsicle sticks, egg cartons; tree products are even found in toothpaste, twinkies, makeup, football helmets, colognes, medicine...)
- ❖ 6th Grade - HS: *Hands on & using tools*
 - Bring a tree cookie, clinometer, or diameter tape, teach them to count the tree rings to tell the age of the tree, measure height and size of tree
 - “Tree” in other languages: Arbol=Spanish; Baum=German; Es sit=Salish (“*Es-sheet*”); Shu=Chinese (“*Shoe*”)
- ❖ On your way home, notice all the trees you pass and try to imagine what your community would look like without them. Not a very pretty thought!
- ❖ **Tree Jokes:**
 - What kind of tree can fit in your hand? A. A palm tree
 - How do trees get on the internet? A. They log in
 - How can you tell if a tree is a dogwood? A. By its bark
- ❖ **Arbor Day Foundation Arbor Day Guide Book:**
<https://www.arborday.org/arborday/graphics/celebrate-arbor-day-guidebook-small.pdf>