

Audubon Center & Sanctuary

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Every Tree for Itself: Curriculum Integration Guide

Warm up Their Brains Before We Come

- **Pre-visit Activity:** Have students review what a plant is and its parts.
- Brainstorm a list of plants the students know.

Activities and Ideas for Extending the Learning

- Plant seeds and watch them grow. Change things, like light direction to see how the plants respond.
- Look at different leaf shapes and think about which would catch more light. Make rubbings of them, identify them, or laminate them.
- Identify and examine different trees in your school yard. Keep a journal of what they look like and how they grow, etc.
- Examine tree cookies.
- Find and sort and examine different tree seeds.
- Play the game again, but change certain things – much less water in a drought year, a windstorm that knocks down some trees, etc.

Integration Ideas

- Have students measure tree trunks to determine diameter. (Math and measuring).
- Journal about a single tree through the seasons (Writing).

Books

- The Giving Tree, Shel Silverstein. Ages 4-8, 64 pages, HarperCollins, 1964, **ISBN-10:** 0060586753 (2004 edition)
- The Great Kapok Tree, Lynne Cherry. Ages 4-8, 40 pages, Sandpiper 2000, **ISBN-10:** 0152026142
- The Lorax, Dr. Suess. Ages 4-8, 72 pages, Random House Books for Young Readers; reprint edition (August 12, 1971), **ISBN-10:** 0394823370

Web Resources

- <http://www.atozteacherstuff.com/Themes/Trees/> - Lots of lesson plans here.

NYS Standard 4 - The Living Environment

Major Understanding: 1.1b Plants need air, water and food in order to live and thrive.

Major Understanding: 3.2a Individuals within a species may compete with each other for food, water, mates, space, and shelter in their environment.

Major Understanding: 5.2a and 5.2g Plants respond to changes in their environment. And the health, growth, and development of organisms are affected by environmental conditions such as the availability of food, air, water, space, shelter, heat, and sunlight.

PA Environment and Ecology Standard

EE 4.3.4 A Know that plants, animals and humans are dependent on air and water.

EE 4.6.4 A Understand that living things are dependent on nonliving things in the environment for survival.

Objective of the Program

Students will understand the basic needs of a plant and how trees compete for those needs. Students will learn that plants are affected by changes in the environment, including day length, overpopulation, and logging.