

Discovering Trees Pre-Trip Activities

To prepare your students for the investigations they will do on site, we recommend doing these activities prior to your visit.

Tree Walk

Purpose:

To discover what students know about trees and tree parts

Materials:

None

Steps:

1. Following school policies, take the students outside on a walk near school. Share with the students that to prepare for the field trip, the students will explore different types of trees and tree parts.
2. Once outside, explore the different trees in the area and ask the students about the names and functions of the tree parts. If weather permits, have students put one of their hands on the tree trunk. Ask the students how their hand compares with the trunk. Discuss texture, size, color, etc.
3. If time permits, you can also ask the students if they think trees are living or non-living.

Note: If it is not possible to take the students on a walk, then bring some branches/leaves into the classroom for students to explore.

Tree Drawing

Purpose:

To discover what students know about trees and tree parts

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencil/Crayons/Markers

Steps:

1. Share with the students they will get to show how much they know about trees and remember from the walk.
2. Give each student a piece of paper and writing utensil.
3. Have students draw a tree with as many parts as they know.
4. If time permits, have the students share their drawings with a partner.
5. If they are missing any tree parts that their partner has, have them add that part to their drawing.
6. If desired, save the drawing for the post-trip activity.

Literature Connections

Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees for Kids by G. Gibbons; *Sky Tree* by C. Christiansen

Discovering Trees Post-Trip Activities

These activities will build upon the learning experiences from the field trip. We recommend doing these activities after your visit.

Tree Walk

Purpose:

To assess what students know about trees and tree parts

Materials:

None

Steps:

1. Following school policies, take the students outside on a walk near school.
2. Look for different types of trees. Ask the students what they remember about the tree parts.
3. Explore the different parts and ask the students about the names and functions. Encourage the students to compare the plant parts using appropriate vocabulary.
4. If time permits, have the students create labels for the trees and the tree parts.

Note: If it is not possible to take the students on a walk, then bring some branches/leaves into the classroom for students to explore.

Tree Drawing

Purpose:

To assess what students know about plant parts

Materials:

- Paper
- Pencil/Crayons/Markers

Steps:

1. Share with the students they will get to show how much they now know about tree parts.
2. Give each student a piece of paper and writing utensil.
3. Have students draw a tree with as many parts as they know.
4. If time permits, have the students compare this drawing with the pre-trip drawing. What parts do they now know about?

Literature Connections

Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees for Kids by G. Gibbons; *Sky Tree* by C. Christiansen