

Adopt A Tree!

Choose a tree near your home to adopt. Observe your tree beginning _____ and continue until _____. Attach this sheet to the inside of a folder. Store your writing, artwork, observations, and data inside the folder. When complete, make a booklet with all your materials.

1. What kind of tree did you adopt? What is its scientific name?
2. Describe your tree. Try to determine its height and the circumference of its trunk. What shape are your tree's leaves? Describe the color and texture of the bark. Crush a leaf or a twig and describe its smell.
3. Write the life story of your tree. How did the tree get to where it is? How might new trees come to join it? What does your tree need for its survival? How old do you think your tree is? How long might it live?
4. What other living things depend on your tree? Make a list of any creatures you observe living on or visiting your tree, such as insects, birds, and small mammals. Why is the tree important to each of them?
5. Put yourself in your tree's place. Use descriptive sentences to tell how you would feel when there is:
 - a person planting you
 - a snowstorm
 - a violent windstorm
 - a gentle rain falling
 - a thunderstorm with lightning
 - a forest fire raging in the distance
 - a squirrel scampering up your trunk
 - a treehouse being built in you
 - a bird building a nest in your branches
 - a child climbing your branches
 - someone carving into your bark
 - a gentle breeze blowing through your branches
6. Draw a picture of the shape of your tree.
Draw a detailed picture of a leaf from your tree.
Draw a picture of a leafless branch in winter (if your tree loses its leaves).
Make a leaf rubbing.
Make a bark rubbing.
Make a map showing the location of your tree.
7. Each month, on the same date, make the following observations of your tree and its environment. Record your data on index cards.
 - date
 - time
 - temperature
 - weather conditions
 - changes in the tree since your last observation

