



Today's Featured Activity: Let's Meet Some Trees!

I've yet to meet a tree I didn't like, but sometimes it is hard to tell different trees apart. Today's activity will help you get to know the trees in your yard, neighborhood, or at one of our [Public Conservation Areas](#)! As always, be sure to have your nature journal or some paper and crayons or colored pencils with you to draw what you're seeing.

To begin, the next time you are on a walk, or you could even do parts of this from your window if you have a tree nearby. Choose a tree to meet and get to know it better! Look at the tree from a distance, draw the shape of the tree. Ask yourself, is it round, pointy, or cone-shaped? Then get closer, look at the leaves and draw them. Ask yourself these questions: are they needle-like or broad and flat? Do they have toothed edges or are they smooth? Are they lobed, like a hand? Do the branches have single leaves, or little leaflets along a single stalk? Now let's look at the bark, is it smooth or rough? What color is it? Is it peeling off? What does it feel like when you touch it? If once you've answered all of those questions and you're still not sure what kind of tree it is, try using this [online tree identifier](#) from the Arbor Day Foundation.

To take a closer look try some of these activities:

- Do a leaf or bark rubbing on a larger piece of paper with crayons or sidewalk chalk. You can either do this outside or collect a few leaves and small pieces of bark from the ground and do it at home later.
- Go on a leaf scavenger hunt! Print out this checklist and see how many of the trees and leaves you can find on your walk.
- Pretend to be a tree! You can do this inside or out, but for the best effect head outside on a sunny, breezy day. Find a tree to be near and pretend that you are that tree. Stand with your eyes closed and imagine your feet are anchored to the ground like roots. Spread your arms out above your head and wiggle your fingers like branches. Sway back and forth when the wind hits you.
- Get a new perspective! Look up close to a tree and far away, feel the different textures of the leaves, the bark, and the branches. Hug a tree! Close your eyes and listen to the leaves rustle and the branches creak. Smell the air, the bark and the leaves.
- Write a thank you note to your tree! Now that you've gotten to know your tree better, think of all the things trees do and write a note thanking it for being a home for birds and squirrels or for providing a shady spot to sit, or for some other great reason!

Did you do this activity? Post a photo on Instagram and tag @clctrust or use #clctrust.

Have suggestions for activities you'd like to see? [Send us an email!](#)

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