



# Time for Trees!

**Explore a forest habitat. If you do not have access to a forest, a tree and creative thinking will do!**



1. Draw a tree on chart paper and ask students to help you label its parts (roots, trunk, bark, leaves, branches, fruit). Explain that each part of a tree has an important function and is dependent upon all other parts to thrive. Ask students to tell you what they know about different parts of a tree, eliciting the following:
  - A tree is a giant plant.
  - The roots take in nourishment and secure the tree in the ground.
  - The trunk holds the branches, which in turn holds the leaves and fruit.
  - The bark protects the trunk.
  - The leaves and the sun make food for the tree.Keep it simple, stressing how all parts work together as a team just as you do in your class.
2. Go for a walk to observe a tree and identify all the parts you have been discussing. Help focus students by asking questions about how the tree looks, feels and sounds.
3. Back in the circle, record all observations on chart paper. You might also discuss ways that trees help people:
  - By keeping the air clean
  - Giving us oxygen to breathe and food to eat
  - Providing wood for paper, furniture and homes
  - Providing us with shade

## Tips

- Have students draw their own tree and label the parts.
- Write the following song on chart paper to read, sing and act out. Sing to the tune of 'I'm a Little Teapot'!

<i>I'm a little tree,</i>	[stand tall with arms stretched out]
<i>Come look at me.</i>	[wiggle fingers]
<i>I make oxygen</i>	
<i>For you and me.</i>	[blow out and breathe in]
<i>If you get hot, then</i>	[drag right hand across forehead]
<i>You have it made.</i>	
<i>Come by me</i>	[one hand beckoning signal]
<i>And get some shade!</i>	[arms stretched out and swinging]