

My Tree

Age group

All ages

Materials

- Paper
- Pencil
- Crayons or colored pencils

Directions

1. Find a tree that you can visit at least three times this spring. You should make observations of this tree at least one week apart, but you might want to make your visits longer in between... it's up to you!
2. Bring a piece of paper, and your pencils and crayons.
3. Give your tree a name: it can be anything; if you know its species name that's great, if not have fun making one up!
4. Write down if it is an evergreen or deciduous tree
5. Draw a picture of its shape
6. Draw a picture of a leaf (No leaves? No worries! Just record that there were no leaves.
7. Draw a picture of its bark texture, or do a bark rubbing with crayon or pencil
8. Do you see any animals in your tree? If you do, write down what you see.
9. Describe how your tree makes you feel, and why



At the end of this project you should have at least 3 pages of a nature journal about your tree!



Nature Journal Ideas:

- Pick a tree this spring and visit it every week. Each week, either take a picture or draw your tree. Make observations about what changes you see in your tree.

-Make a map of your own backyard. Use [inaturalist.com](https://www.inaturalist.com) or a tree book to identify the different trees, and show where they are on your map. If you can't find their real names, get creative and give it your own name.

-Practice bark rubbings! Put a page of your journal on the bark of a tree, and using a pencil or crayon, rub it against the paper so that the bark pattern is shown on your journal page. You can do this with leaves too. Don't forget to make note of the location of your tree.

-Collect flowers or leaves that you think are interesting. Tape or glue them into your nature journal. As always, get permission first. It is usually okay to pick up leaves that have fallen on the ground.

