

Activity 9:  
To Be A Tree

*Taking Neighborhood Walks*

Look for exposed  
tree roots.

Imagine how far the  
roots reach out under  
the ground.

Find a tree with a trunk  
that takes at least two  
children to reach  
around.

Find a tree that is the  
same size as you!

Look for seeds  
around the trees.

Are any sprouting?

Have any been chewed  
on by animals?

Look for trees with  
unusually shaped trunks,  
branches, and twigs.

Compare the trunks and  
branches of evergreen  
trees and deciduous  
trees.

Find a small tree and  
try to count its branches  
and leaves.  
Imagine how many  
leaves are on a big tree!

Activity 10:  
Trees as Habitats

*A Nature Walk*

Look for animals living in tree holes or leafy nests, hiding from predators, eating tree parts, perching or nesting in branches.

Can you find a vine climbing up tree trunks to seek and soak up sunlight?

Look for lichens\* growing on bark.

*Lichens are a symbiotic relationship between a fungus and an alga or bacteria- they are a living partnership (students may understand "friendship").*

Look for mushrooms growing on dead or dying trees.

Look for snags or standing dead trees that provide homes for many animals.

Look around for fallen bark, fruits, leaves, nuts, seeds, or twigs that might show signs of animal life. *Who do you think left these clues?*

Look on the ground for animal droppings that show animals live in the tree or eat the tree's fruit or seeds.  
Look—don't touch!

<p>Look on bark for scratch marks caused by sharp claws or antlers.</p>	<p>Look up in the branches for broken twigs, nests, and holes.</p>
<p>Look at the small trees and shrubs near the ground for nibbled-on twigs and bark.</p>	<p><i>Do you hear any animals?</i></p> <p><i>Do you think they can hear us?</i></p> <p><i>What do you think they will do if we are very quiet?</i></p>

Activity 10:  
Trees as Habitats

*Outdoor Play*

Use the spoons and containers to scoop up leaf litter. Put individual critters in the ice cube tray to observe.

Roll over a dead log. Use paintbrushes to gently touch any critters you find. *How do they react?*

Put a white sheet under a tree, and gently shake the branches over it. What fell down?