



Adopt-a-Tree

Objectives:

- Discover different kinds of trees through the senses.
- Learn how to differentiate tree species.

What You Need

- a wooded area
- blindfolds
- paper
- crayons
- tree identification book*

What You Do

Part 1

In a wooded area, have your EcoKids pair up at a starting point. One partner in each pair is blindfolded. Blindfolded players are led by their partners to a tree, where they “get to know” the tree by touching it, smelling it, measuring it with their arms, noticing what the bark feels like and how the tree trunk is shaped, etc.

The blindfolded players are then lead back to the starting point where the blindfolds are removed and the players must identify which tree is theirs. Several different trees may have to be felt before the right one is found. Partners will then switch roles and play the activity again using a different tree.



Part 2

Give your EcoKids a large piece of paper to fold into quarters. Have them choose their favourite tree, grab a crayon and brush up on their artistic abilities!

In the

First quarter: draw your favourite tree’s shape.

Second quarter: do a **bark rubbing** of the tree’s trunk.

Third quarter: draw a picture of one of your tree’s **leaves**.

Fourth quarter: sketch the tree’s fruit or cone, if present, or write a poem about your special tree!

Have your EcoKids identify their trees using the field guide and then share their findings with each other to discover similarities and differences among the trees.

For older kids you can turn this sensory activity into a more interpretive one. Ask them to look at their surroundings for evidence of birds or other animals; can they see any sky when they stand underneath their tree; how much shade does the tree throw; how tall is the tree; what type of soil is the tree growing in; if they were an animal, what would they look for in a tree?



Part 3

Collect different tree leaves and take a close look at each one. Identify what is special or different. Are the edges smooth or rough, or is the leaf like a needle? While you’re out collecting leaves, collect twigs, bark, flowers and seeds as well. Try to identify different kinds of trees by using their parts. Count how many different trees are in your area and discover which trees are common to all parts of your province, and which are common to all of Canada. Did you know that each province and territory has an “Arboreal Emblem” or provincial tree? Do you know what yours is? Can you guess why it may have been selected as an emblem?

	Bark Rub _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
	My Favourite Tree. _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____

*Native Trees of Canada by R.C. Hosie is an excellent tree identification resource.