

# Get active!

## Be an Artist

Have students show their artistic sides by drawing pictures of trees – it will encourage their powers of observation. This is an ideal activity for getting students outdoors and exploring different artistic mediums.

### Go Outside and Observe

- Have children bring pencils and a hard surface to draw on.
- Have all students focus on one tree or small groups focus on different trees.
- Hand out the planning worksheets. Tell the students to really look at their tree before they draw:
  - Where is the tree trunk? Where are the branches, leaves or needles?
  - Are there any animals or birds in the tree?
  - What color is the tree? – (Remember the color because you will need to add that when we go back inside.)
- Draw a rough picture of the tree on the student worksheet.
  - Show the tree as you see it right now. Remember the colors.)

### Complete the Artwork

Go back inside to transfer their ideas and sketches to larger art paper, using their choice of the following mediums:

Crayons  
Watercolors

Markers  
Pastel chalks/charcoal

Pen and ink  
Colored pencils

### More Tree Art Fun

- **Have students do multiple drawings.**  
Imagine how the tree will look in another season and draw it then.
- **Try different mediums.**  
Make one copy of each rough drawing. Have students color the two pictures using different mediums. Talk about how the medium made the picture different and how they chose a certain medium.
- **Tag-team drawing**  
One student starts a drawing. After 30 seconds, they pass it to a second student. This can be done with the entire group or in small groups.
- **Set up an art gallery.**  
Have students sign and name their pictures. Hang completed pictures outside the classroom, in the cafeteria or in the front hall.

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### Look Before You Draw

- Examine the trunk and branches. What texture and color are they?
- Does your tree have leaves or needles? What color and shape are they?
- Does your tree have any flowers? What color are they?
- Are there any animals or birds in the tree? Can you see any birds' nests?



Use the space below to plan and sketch out tree artwork you are going to create:

