

Get active!

Music Stars – Poets and Rappers

Many students listen to rap music. But do they realize that every rap starts with a poem?

Develop students' language skills by having them compose a poem about trees. To get their creativity flowing, read them some poems, including songs, haiku and examples of refrains. After they have written their poems, challenge them to include music – they can adapt a tune they already know or create an original one.

Add the Fun

- **Poetry Reading**

Encourage students to read their individual poems to the class. Have the class vote on the best poem, and ask the winning student to read it at your Arbor Day Celebration.

- **American Idol**

Encourage students to perform their songs for the class. Have the class vote for the winning rap/song, and ask the winner to perform it at your Arbor Day Celebration.

- **Recording Studio**

Using video or the sound recorder on a computer, record the winning poem, rap or song and send it to Project Plant It!

- **Songwriting Teams**

Explain how songwriting teams work – one person writes the lyrics and the other writes the music, or they both work together, each one building on the other's ideas.



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Music Stars – Poets and Rappers

Do you like rap music? Do you listen to songs on the radio? Do like to sing or rap yourself? Put what you know about trees into a poem, song or rap!

You will Need to Create:

- Lyrics – the words for your song or rap
- Music – the tune



Write your lyrics in the space provided below:

Handwriting lines for lyrics, including a green musical note on the left and a blue musical note on the right.



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Curtain Up!

Making up stories and acting them out is a favorite pastime for kids. Sharpen their writing skills by focusing their creativity on a skit about trees.

How To

- Have each student write a story about trees. Be sure they name their stories.
- Encourage students to read their stories to the class.
- Ask the class to choose its favorite story.
- Choose actors and a narrator.
- Have the narrator read the story while the actors perform it.
- At the end, the narrator introduces the actors and writer.

Add The Fun

- Rehearse the skit. Perform it at your Arbor Day Celebration.
- Bring a video camera and film the skit.
- Show the film at a school assembly, with a “red carpet” for the class.

Story Ideas

- The role trees play in our ecosystem
- Trees in our area
- Trees through the seasons - from bare winter branches, to flowers and leaves, and fruit
- Animals who live in the trees and forests
- Products we get from trees
- How one product goes from tree to consumer



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Save a Tree – Recycle

Project Plant It! helps the environment by giving students seedlings to plant. But saving an existing tree is another way that students can help the environment. The first step is to become aware of how much paper we use and how recycling helps.

How much paper do we use?

Have students visit the library or use the internet to find out:

- How much paper does each person use each year?
- How many trees are used each year to produce paper products?
- How many trees could we save by recycling paper?

How does recycling paper help?

Have students discuss how recycling paper helps the environment. Use the worksheet to help them identify the kinds of paper that can be recycled.

1. Recycling saves trees that already exist and conserves our natural resources.
2. It improves air quality – it saves the trees that purify our air and cuts down on burning.
3. It reduces the energy and water paper mills needed to make new paper products.
4. It keeps paper out of landfills.
 - 75% of U.S. paper mills use recycled paper fiber to make their products.
 - 36% of the raw materials used at paper mills come from recycled paper.

How can students help?

- A paper recycling project can help kids provide a service to their community. And, if the recycler pays for paper, you may be able to raise funds for your school. A phone book recycling project may be one way to start.
- Students can tell their families about recycling and start doing it at home.

Every little bit helps.

One year of recycling at Stanford University saved the equivalent of 33,913 trees.

Helpful sites:

http://www.paperrecycles.org/school_recycling/index.html

<http://earth911.com/recycling/paper/paper-recycling-at-school/>

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Game Time

It is fun to play games any time, but it can be especially fun on the day you plant your seedlings. Create a new game or adapt an existing one.

Build It!

- Have students gather twigs and tree products to design and build structures – houses, teepees, bridges.
- Put the class creations together to make a tree-friendly city.

Tree Concentration

- Glue two of the same types of leaves (or pictures of leaves) onto paper plates. Make at least five pairs.
- Turn the plates upside down and mix them around.
- Have players turn over two plates per turn, trying to find matching leaves. If there is a match, the player continues that turn. If there is no match, the next player tries.
- Players tally how many matches they find.

Add The Fun

- Have the class make up a new game, with its own rules.



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Game Time

Use the space below to plan and sketch out the building structure you are going to make:



What other games can you invent about trees? List your ideas below:



Get active!

Celebrate Planting Your Seedlings

Turn planting your seedlings into a celebration. It is a great opportunity to show off class projects. When planning the day, first check out the "Arbor Day Celebration" on page 6 of the Teacher's Guide.

Invite Honored Guests:

- Family members
- Mentors
- Dominion foresters
- Local, county or state officials
- Consultant or partner school from **Recruit a Mentor**
 - Decorate with flowers from blooming trees
 - Serve Tree Treats as refreshments
 - Play games like those from **Game Time**
 - Have an art gallery for **Show Your Tree Stuff** or **Be An Artist** projects
 - Showcase the results of a recycling project
 - Entertain guests with your **Curtain Up!** skit or **Music Stars** poems, raps and songs

*Use the worksheet as a guide or have students create their own invitations.

Planting Ceremony

The highlight of the ceremony is planting your seedlings. Have on hand:

- Seedlings
- Planting instructions that came with your seedlings
- Shovel
- Hose or watering can
- Gardening gloves
- Clean-up items
- Mulch



Get active!

Come To Our Tree Planting Celebration!

_____ (Student Name)

I am learning about trees, how they are important, and all the things we get from trees. I am also learning how to identify and care for trees. This is part of Project Plant It!, an exciting tree planting and education program developed by Dominion for elementary school students.

Our school received seedlings to plant, and we are going to plant them: _____ (time, date)

After we plant the seedlings, we are going to celebrate by:

Can you come?

RSVP (Check one:)

- Yes! I'll be happy to come to school. _____ (number who will attend)
- Sorry, I can't make it that day.

Attendee Name

Signature



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Recruit a Mentor

Project Plant It! offers a good opportunity to connect with the community. A class mentor can visit the class as an expert speaker, accompany the class on outdoor activities, lend a hand at your seedling planting ceremony, or help with research and learning activities.

Possible Consultants for Project Plant It!:

- Parents, grandparents, family members
- Boy or Girl Scouts who are working on merit badges or community service projects
- Neighbor who loves to garden
- Garden center owner, manager or employee
- Local master gardener
Master gardeners receive intense horticulture training and volunteer in their communities. Visit http://www.ahs.org/master_gardeners/ for more information.
- Dominion employee
- Federal or state park employee

Reach Out And Touch Someone

- If you are in an urban school, help your students access a more tree-friendly environment by locating a partner school outside the city. If you are in a suburban or rural school, reach out to urban colleagues.
- Plan a joint activity, like a **Scavenger Hunt**.



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.



Get active!

Be an Artist

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:



Get active!

Create Class “Tree Treats”

Students can learn about measurements, simple ratios and nutrition by preparing some tree treats. Best of all, they will enjoy a tasty snack! In this class activity, students prepare a simple dish like trail mix or fruit salad at school as a group.

Cooking Class

1. Prepare

Have students bring ingredients. Use the worksheet to tell parents what kids should bring. Visit allrecipes.com and enter “trail mix” or “fruit salad” for suggested ingredients and proportions, or simply mix everything together.

- Trail mix: assortment of nuts and dried fruits
- Fruit salad: assortment of canned fruits or pre-cut fresh fruit
- Utensils: mixing bowls, spoons; serve in paper cups

2. Create

Write down the recipe's proportions and steps on the chalkboard.

- Show students each of the ingredients.
- Show how to measure ingredients.
- Break students into small groups. One group can be “mixers,” who will stir all the ingredients together.
- Give each group an ingredient to measure, with the appropriate measuring cup or spoon.
- Follow the steps in the recipe. Have each group bring its ingredient to the “mixers.”

3. Enjoy!

While the students eat their Tree Treats, talk about the experience:

- What kind of tree did the ingredients come from?
- Where does that tree grow?
- What time of year is the tree's fruit/nut available?
- How does that treat taste – sweet, sour, salty?

Be sure to have paper plates, napkins and forks on hand.

Eat an Apple a Day

Have students bring in different apple varieties and compare their tastes. Those usually found in supermarkets include: Braeburn, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Fuji, Gala, Granny Smith, Honeycrisp, Jonathan, MacIntosh, Pink Lady, Stayman, Rome and Winesap.

Get active!

Create Class “Tree Treats”

(Student Name)

I am learning about trees, how they are important, and all the things we get from trees. It is part of Project Plant It!, an exciting tree planting and educational program developed by Dominion for elementary school students.

We are going to taste foods made from trees on _____
(time, date)

I have been tasked to bring in the following from home to class on that day:



Get active!

Be a Scientist

Have students “dig into” the details about trees – have them learn everything they can about one type of tree. Assign “lab teams” for joint research or have each student conduct independent study. Students can “present their research” at a Show and Tell.

Activities

- Research: visit the internet or library to find out more about the tree
- Gather images: cut pictures from magazines, take photos or find images on the internet
- Get samples: tree bark, flowers, nuts, twigs (may not be available for all types of trees)
- Math: find out how big the tree grows, how much of a product is produced
- Geography: find out where the tree grows
- Use: learn how people use this tree
- Present: paste pictures and samples on the worksheet

The worksheet can guide students' research.



Get active!

Be a Scientist

1. The name of the tree I am researching is _____

2. My tree grows in _____ (continent name)

3. It grows _____ feet tall.

4. How people use my tree:

My tree looks like this:
(paste clippings and photos of your specific tree species in the space below)

My tree's leaves look like this:
(paste clippings and photos of your specific tree leaves in the space below)



Get active!

Show Your Tree Stuff

Kids love to collect stuff, so have them collect tree stuff and use it in a project. A Tree Stuff project offers lots of options:

- Collect stuff during a class Walkabout Adventure or Field Trip, or have students bring in stuff from home.
- Assemble collages or scrapbooks. Use them as a reference tool for Project Plant It! lessons.
- Build dioramas or structures like buildings, teepees or bridges.
- Create as individuals, teams or a class.
- Complete it in one day or over a period of time.
- Display the finished projects in your school.

Tree Stuff

The worksheet tells the students what kinds of tree stuff to gather:

- Pictures of trees and tree products – from cut-up magazines, downloads from the internet
- Tree pieces – twigs, bark, leaves, needles, wood, nuts, cones, bark rubbings
- Other items
 - Draw a map of the school grounds showing its trees
 - Keep handouts from a field trip
 - Take photos during a field trip

Materials

- Posterboard for collages, construction paper for scrapbooks, shoeboxes for dioramas
- Crayons, paints, marking pens
- Glue, staplers, scissors



Get active!

Show Your Tree Stuff

Here are some ideas of things you may collect:

Pictures of Trees:

- Trees
- Branches
- Leaves
- Fruits
- Flowers
- Nuts
- Trees in different seasons
- Forests
- Products from trees

Pieces of Trees:

- Twigs
- Bark and bark rubbings
- Leaves and needles
- Wood
- Nuts
- Cones

Products from Trees:

- Paper
- Lincoln Logs, blocks
- Charcoal
- Chopsticks
- Baseball bats
- Musical instruments
- Toothpicks
- Lumber
- Rubber
- Sawdust, mulch
- Wooden cooking utensils

Special Stuff

- Photo of a tree in your yard or school
- Map – show where the trees are at home or school
- Have you visited a place that had a lot of trees – like a state park or garden? Bring in a brochure.

Make a Bark Rubbing

You need:

- Heavy piece of paper
- Crayon

Hold the paper against a tree trunk. Rub the crayon lengthwise lightly back and forth on the paper. The raised parts of the bark will make a mark on your paper!

Get active!

Scavenger Hunt

Scavenger hunts can be held inside or out. You may want to customize your items-to-find list, based on the location of your hunt and the time of year.

How to Set Up a Scavenger Hunt

- Break students into small groups.
- Give each group the student worksheet with the items to locate.
- Quick search: Students simply check items off a list.
- Pre-labeled: Put post-its on each item and have the groups collect the post-its as proof that they have located the item. If you have, for example, four groups, you will need four post-its on each item (or four different locations for each item).

Indoor Scavenger Hunt – Search for Wood Products

Places for an indoor scavenger hunt:

- Classroom
- Entire school

Outside Scavenger Hunt – Search for Trees and Parts of Trees

Places for an outdoor hunt:

- Your school's grounds
- Nearby neighbor's yard with a lot of trees
- Estate or historic home with a lot of trees
- Garden center
- Botanical garden



Get active!

Can you find these tree-related items?

Inside

1. Products from trees
 - Doors, frames
 - Pencils
 - Hockey sticks
 - Baseball bats
 - Popsicle sticks
 - Desks
 - Cork
2. Paper items made from trees
 - Newspapers
 - Comic books
 - Textbooks
 - Paper towels
 - Toilet paper
 - Envelopes
 - Cereal boxes
 - Maps
 - Computer paper
 - Wrapping paper
 - Rubber
 - Baskets
 - Toys
 - Fruits
 - Nuts

Outside

- Tree trunk
- Branch
- Twig
- Bark
- Leaves
- Tree with no leaves
- Tree with leaves
- Tree with needles
- Buds on trees
- Flowers on trees
- Cones
- Tree roots
- Stumps
- Tree sap
- Saplings
- Seedlings
- Birds – sitting in a tree
- Squirrels – in a tree
- Nests
- Mulch
- Utility poles
- Houses
- Paper
- Boats
- Furniture
- Tires

