

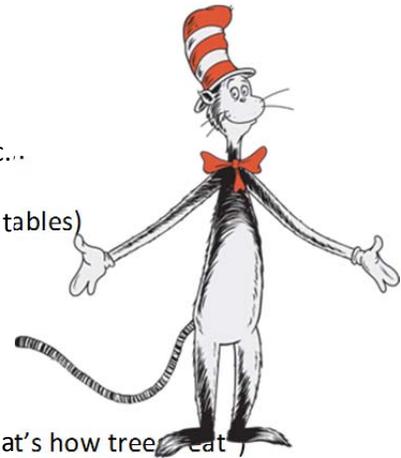


## The Cat in the Hat Knows A Lot About That! – Exploring Trees!

The Cat in the Hat, Nick and Sally love to explore. You can encourage kids to learn about trees and plants through the tree exploration. You'll set up a station by a stand of trees, or you can plan to take a "tree trek" to observe and discuss trees.

What you'll need:

- If you're planning to set up a table with artifacts, you will want:
  - o Some tree related material: bark, leaves, seeds, pine cones, etc...
  - o Illustrations of tree anatomy and life stages of trees and plants
    - Leaves and bark for the bark rubbing (if you plan to do this at tables)
    - Chalk or crayons for the leaf rubbing
    - Printed activity sheets At the station or on the trek:



Talk about features of trees:

- Roots:
  - o Trees have roots that help the trees get water and nutrients (that's how trees eat)
- Leaves:
  - o Trees have leaves that help the trees "breathe." Leaves absorb the sunlight and air (with carbon dioxide) and release air (with oxygen) into the atmosphere – just like we breathe in air (with oxygen) and breathe out air (with carbon dioxide)
- Bark:
  - o Trees have bark, and like our skin, bark helps protect the inside of the tree
- Variety:
  - o Trees come in lots of different sizes and shapes – just like people
- Some trees have leaves on them all year round
- Some trees lose their leaves over the winter and grow new leaves in the spring
- Some trees grow very tall, and others stay close to the ground
- Seeds:
  - o Trees release seeds that grow into new trees.
  - o Some trees have seeds that are in pods, some in cones, and some have fruits or nuts that have seeds inside them
- Talk about trees as a habitat (that means a place where plants, animals and insects live)
- Lots of insects and animals live in trees
- Some trees also have other plants that live on them
- What do the children see in the trees?

Activity Sheet: Leaf/Bark Rubbing

- Have a table available with samples of leaves and bark to do rubbings
  - Kids should use the side of the pieces of chalk or crayon to get the best rubbings
    - Encourage them to rub gently so they can see the texture
  - Remind kids not to take bark off of living trees. They should use bark from branches that have fallen off trees, or bark that has fallen off of the tree - sometimes trees lose their bark and grow new bark
- Extension ideas: You may want to provide kids with seeds they can plant at home to see how plants grow (developing roots, stems and leaves).

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