

Construct A Tree

Nº. 9

PRIMARY/JUNIOR

Science | Fine Arts | Health and PE



LESSON SUMMARY

To give students the opportunity to identify the parts of a tree and demonstrate how they fit together.

Activity Information

Estimated Duration:	30 minutes
Materials:	Plant part cards, masking tape
Setting:	Indoors
Key Vocabulary:	Germination, pressure.

Teacher Background

To make Construct-A-Tree cards, write the name of the tree part on squares or rectangles cut from construction paper. If you wish, you may illustrate them with a quick sketch. Consider adding other tree parts (e.g. flowers, buds, cones, seed).

For a class of 30, the following number of cards per tree part are required to construct a well-proportioned tree:

Roots – 3

Trunk – 3

Branches – 4

Leaves – 20

ACTIVITY

- Step 1** Prepare the required number of plant-part cards for your class and tape one to the back of each student.
- Step 2** When all the cards have been taped on, have students ask each other questions that can be answered only by “yes”, “no” or “maybe” (e.g. Do I make food for the tree? Do I carry water up from the roots?).
- Step 3** When they correctly guess the name of their tree part, have them stick their card on their front side.
- Step 4** When all the tree parts have been identified, ask students to assume the role of their tree part and work together in three different groups to construct three different trees. What, if any, differences are there amongst the trees?
- Step 5** Then challenge the group to work together to create one large, flat tree lying on the floor.
- Step 6** Photograph the students’ tree(s). Display the photo and have each student write a short description of his/her part in the experience.
- Step 7** This activity could be used as an introduction to Tree Part Puzzles. Both activities combined take about one hour.

Extension

Build several trees of differing shapes, sizes and types (evergreen, deciduous). Note the similarities and differences among these trees. Build a tree as it might be observed in the various seasons.

Devise some interesting growing conditions for small groups to portray (e.g. an old cedar growing out of a small crack in a rocky ridge; a maple with fence wire wrapped tightly around it, a windswept shoreline pine, etc.). Have the other groups guess what the growing conditions might be.

Create deciduous and evergreen trees out of arts-and-crafts materials (tubes, straws, paper, modeling clay). Create trees as they appear in different seasons.