

# Make a Neighbourhood Tree Guide

All Ages

**Make a Neighbourhood Tree Guide** and discover the trees in your community.

If you are just beginning to explore trees, try some of the exercises found in our *Trees, Glorious Trees* activity found under *Adventures*. Creating this guidebook is about observing trees and noticing what makes one different from another. There is no urgency to identify the trees by name. In fact, making up a name encourages thoughtful observations and engages the imagination. When you are ready, there are plenty of resources out there to help you identify trees.

## Supplies:

- \* a few copies of the template (below) or blank paper,
- \* pencil,
- \* crayons (jumbo crayons are easy to start with). Remove the paper wrappers at home,
- \* a clipboard or another portable smooth surface to work on.

## Procedure:

- \* Go outside and find a tree that interests you.
- \* Record the shape of the leaf or needles by collecting a sample from the ground and drawing it or making a rubbing. To make a rubbing, place the leaf flat, backside up on the clipboard. Place the template (or blank paper) over the leaf, lining up the leaf box over the leaf. With the paperless crayon held sideways, rub over the leaf.
- \* Draw the bark using colours you see, or make a rubbing of the bark (or a little of both). Hold the template (or blank paper) on the bark to make your rubbing.
- \* Complete the rest of the template. If you are using blank pages, number or label them so you know which pages belong to which tree.
- \* At home, sort and organize the trees as you wish. Assemble your book and make a cover page. You can make up names for the different types of trees you find, or you learn their common names. Local libraries have age-appropriate tree identification resources. You can also use a free app to identify trees. [Leaf Snap](#) will identify a tree from a photograph of the leaf.



You might be surprised how quickly children learn to identify trees by their leaves, seeds, bark and overall shape. Have them take someone on a tree walk of the neighbourhood and share their tree book. Watch for new trees to add to your book.

**Tip:** Where to find big old trees? Cemeteries, long established parks, and conservation areas are often your closest green spaces with mature trees, in their natural state.  
See *Evergreens Everywhere* and *Who's Bark is That?* activities for more fun.



I name this tree \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

The leaves or needles look like this

(draw or make a rubbing)

The bark look like this

(draw or make a rubbing)

The seeds look like this

(draw or maybe make a rubbing)

The whole tree look like this (overall shape)

(draw)

This tree smells like \_\_\_\_\_

This tree is the home of \_\_\_\_\_

My favorite thing about this tree is \_\_\_\_\_

I think this tree is \_\_\_\_\_ old because \_\_\_\_\_

If this tree could talk it would tell me

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_