



Service-Learning Center of Excellence
Campus Field Work
Trees Around Your School

Student Goal: Students will learn some basic aspects of trees
Students will practice environmental data collection

Activity Goal: Students will see the environment around them and their school as a habitat

For this activity you will need a reference tool. The smartphone apps “Picture This: Plant Identifier,” or “Plant and Tree Identifier” are excellent resources, but there are many others, YouTube has many videos, some are listed below. You can also use a tablet to take pictures of your tree to be ID’ed back in the classroom with a desktop computer. You can use the electronic version of this form and record everything online, or you can record data on paper.

Method

In small groups students will go outside and find a tree to use as their subject.

1. Take a picture of your tree (if you have people in the picture we can tell how big it is)
2. Take a picture of a leaf of your tree
3. If you are using a plant ID app, record the name of your tree
4. Measure around your tree and record the size
5. Record where on the campus your tree is
6. Do you see any evidence of animals or insects on or around your tree? If so, what do you see?
7. Do you see any damage to your tree? If yes, what does it look like and what might have caused it?

In the classroom

1. Record all of your information on the data sheet either online or on paper.
2. Watch a YouTube video about reading the rings on the large tree cookie.
[Tree Rings Explained](#)
[Tree Rings Explained for lower grades](#)
[Tree Rings Explained for lower grades includes interpreting rings for more than age](#)
3. Read the rings on your tree cookie as a large group



Craft Activity

Using the small cookies and whatever additional supplies you may need (paint, markers, yarn, etc), have students create a craft using the cookie. Some examples could be a Christmas ornament, a coaster, a medallion to wear around their neck, and window hanging, anything else they may think of.

Civic Nebraska can provide:

- Payment for a tree id app

- Large tree cookie

- [Small tree cookies](#) (1 per student)