

The Urban Jungle

Nº. 14

PRIMARY/JUNIOR

Math | Science | English/Language Arts | Fine Arts



LESSON SUMMARY

To improve students observations and ability to gather data. To give students the opportunity to discover and describe trees in the urban environment.

Activity Information

Estimated Duration: Varies

Materials: Tape measures, notepads, tree identification keys.

Setting: Outdoors

Key Vocabulary: Arboreal Emblem



Teacher Background

Canada's Provincial Trees (Urban Forests – Everyone's Backyard) p.6.

Provincial Trees (Arboreal Emblems)

Alberta	- Lodgepole Pine
British Columbia	- Western Red Cedar
Manitoba	- White Spruce
New Brunswick	- Balsam Fir
Newfoundland	- Black Spruce
Northwest Territories	- Jack Pine
Nova Scotia	- Red Spruce
Ontario	- White Pine
Prince Edward Island	- Red Oak
Saskatchewan	- White Birch

ACTIVITY

Step 1 Take your class on a bus or walking trip around your local community.

Step 2 Have students note the locations of trees in their community (e.g. are they potted, planted along sidewalk, or do they grow in pockets!)

Step 3 Encourage students to sketch a map of one block of their local area and locate all of the trees growing there on it.

Step 4 Find out (using keys) the types of trees and keep a tally sheet.

Teaching Tip:

If there is a large wooded area near your school, students could be taught how to estimate the number of trees in the area. Measure out a 10m* 10m square. If there were 12 trees in the square, then in a 100m* 100m sq. there would be 1,200 trees.

Step 5 Have students repeat Step 4 for a 10m* 10m then discuss the diversity of trees that would be found in 100-meter square.

- Step 6** Tree Sounds: Ask students to choose a local tree and sit under it for about five minutes with their eyes closed. Listen for the different sounds in and around the tree. Bring the class back together and make a list of all of the sound words used by the students. These could be used in a story or poetry writing.
- Step 7** Provide students with the list of provincial trees and ask them to determine why their tree was chosen to represent their province. As an extension, students could be asked to find the significance of the other provincial trees.
- Step 8** Discuss with the class why your provincial tree may have been chosen for your province. Have your students write a school class in another province and tell them about your provincial tree.