

# Forests are More than Trees

## Activity Packet

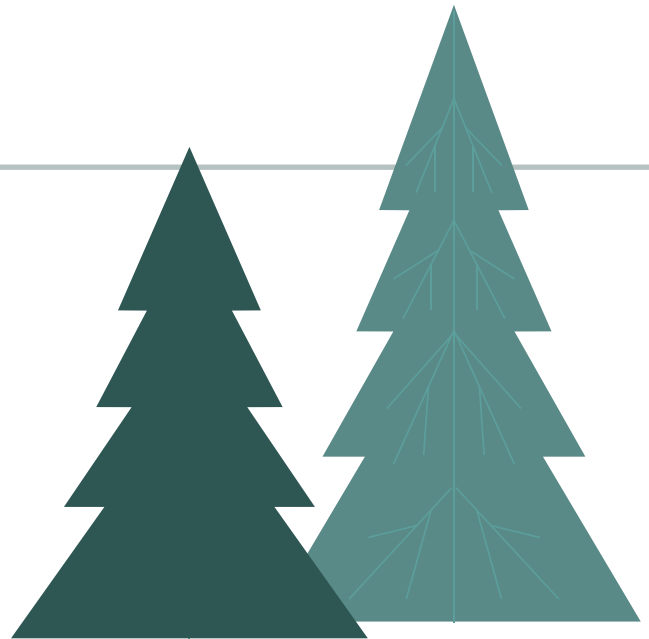


### Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge

*Grade Levels: K-2*

#### *Activities in this packet:*

- [Make your own Leaf Rubbings, page 2](#)
- [Craft: Build a Tree Picture, page 3](#)
- [Adopt-A-Tree Journal, pages 4-5](#)
- [Forest Scavenger Hunt, page 6](#)
- Video Links
  - Parts of a Tree Song, [lyrics on page 7](#), <https://youtu.be/cSiKe5-hyAk>
  - Observation Skills Building: The Parts of a Tree <https://youtu.be/DavIMYcmgto>
  - Story-time: The Busy Tree by Jennifer Ward [https://youtu.be/Nw\\_LDdwpjsA](https://youtu.be/Nw_LDdwpjsA)
- [Download our illustrated trail map](#) of the Rapids Lake Forest Loop Trail for a guided exploration of the forest at the [Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center in Carver, MN](#)  
[15865 Rapids Lake Rd, Carver, MN 55315](#)



# Forests are More than Trees

## Make your own Leaf Rubbings



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#### *Gather these materials:*

- Leaves- fallen leaves work well
- Paper- paper bound for the recycle bin works well
- Crayons with paper removed (pencils can work too)
- Hard surface such as a clip board or piece of cardboard

#### *Making your leaf rubbings:*

1. Find a leaf
2. Put your leaf on a hard surface, under a piece of paper
3. Color over where the leaf lies and watch as its bumps and ridges appear
4. Take a new piece of paper (or add to the one you're using) and repeat with a different leaf
5. Gather leaves from different trees to see how your rubbings compare
6. To create other textures, try the same technique with twigs or bark.



# Forests are More than Trees

## Craft: Build a Tree Picture



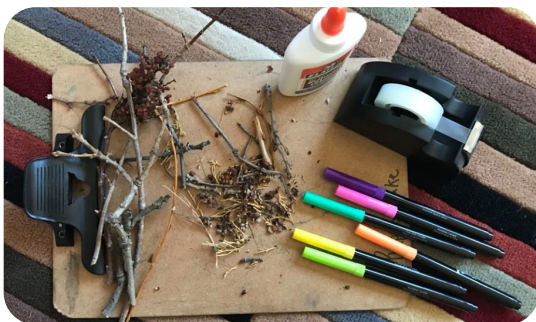
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#### *Gather these materials:*

- Fallen twigs, leaves, seeds
- Paper or cardboard to mount your creation (recycled items work well)
- Glue or clear tape
- Crayons/colored pencils/markers

#### *Making your tree:*

1. Use twigs to make a tree shape on your paper
2. Add leaves, buds, flowers, seeds or fruit to your tree out of twigs or other natural materials
3. Glue or tape twigs to your paper and allow time for drying.
4. Color a forest scene around your new tree! You can add leaves and other details now too.
5. Coloring the scene before gluing, or not gluing at all and just creating a temporary scene are options too.





# Forests are More than Trees

## Adopt-A-Tree Journal



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#### *Gather these materials:*

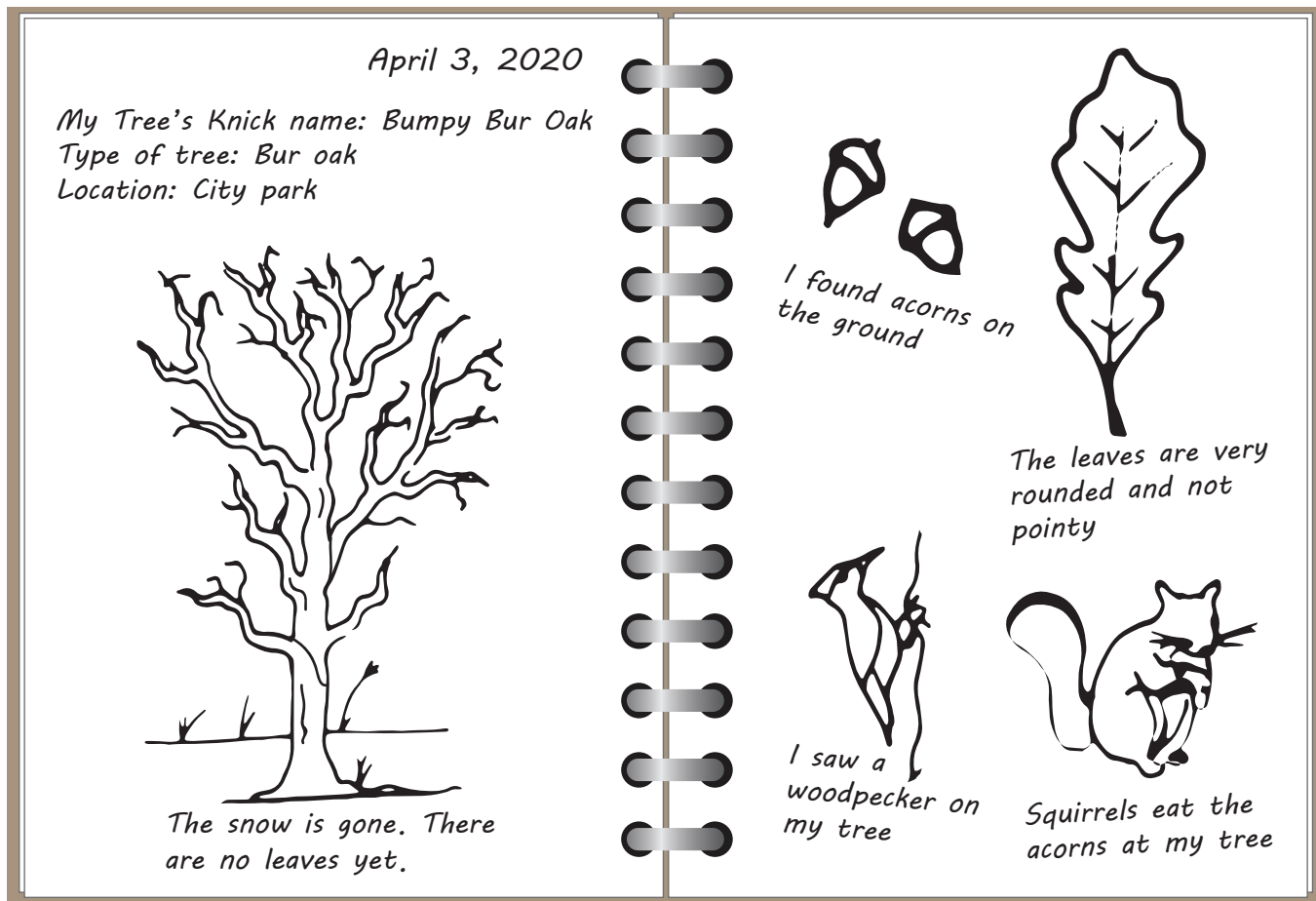
- Nature Journal or blank paper
- A tree- out your window, in your yard, on the street, at a local park
- Pencil/crayons/colored pencils/markers

#### *Adopting your tree:*

1. Choose your tree
2. Get to know your tree by observing it quietly for 10 minutes- use your senses and naturalist skills!
3. Name your tree- think about something that makes it stand out (e.g. bumpy bark, two trunks)
4. If you/your student want to identify your tree. Try this online guide:  
<https://www.arboday.org/trees/whattree/whatTree.cfm?ItemID=E6A>
5. Sketch your tree in your nature journal in these different ways:
  - From your point of view
  - From the point of view of a bald eagle flying above
  - From the point of view of an ant crawling below
  - How you think it would look in winter, summer, spring, and fall
6. Get to know the parts of your tree by drawing and observing each part, below are some questions to guide those observations
  - Roots- sit on these!
    - Can you see any of your tree's roots? How many?
  - Trunk- hug your tree!
    - Can you reach all the way around your tree?
    - How many trunks does it have?
    - Are there any holes in the trunk?

## Adopt-A-Tree Journal, continued from page 4

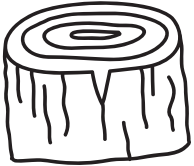
- Bark- create a bark rubbing in your journal!
  - What color is it?
  - How does it feel?
  - How does it smell?
  - What does it remind you of?
- Branches- count how many big branches you see!
  - Do you see any animals in the branches?
  - Are there any nests?
  - Can you reach the first branch?
- Leaves- create a leaf rubbing in your journal!
  - What color is it?
  - What shape is it?
  - How many lobes or fingers does it have?
  - Are its edges smooth?



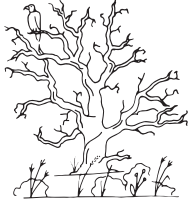
# Forest Scavenger Hunt

Date: \_\_\_\_\_


Check the box when you find an item below




Tree with smooth bark




Tree with rough bark




Tree bud




Nest



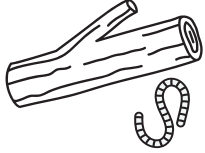
Squirrel




Flower




Ant



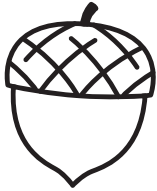
Insect under a log




Hole in a tree




Tree stump




Acorn




Leaf with lobes



Bird



Tree with two trunks



Tree bigger than your arms can reach around



Tree with needles

Some images provided by Vecteezy.com



# Sing Along: Parts of a Tree

## Lyrics to Parts of a Tree Song

(Sung to the tune of Wheels on the Bus)

Video available online: <https://youtu.be/cSiKe5-hyAk>

### Verse 1:

The roots on the tree go  
slurp, slurp, slurp  
slurp, slurp, slurp  
slurp, slurp, slurp.  
The roots on the tree go  
slurp, slurp, slurp.  
All through the forest.

### Verse 2:

The trunk on the tree grows  
strong and straight,  
strong and straight,  
strong and straight.  
The trunk on the tree grows strong and  
straight.  
All through the forest.

### Verse 3:

The bark on the trunk  
protects the tree,  
protects the tree,  
protects the tree.  
The bark on the trunk  
protects the tree.

All through the forest.

### Verse 4:

The branches on the tree reach for the sky,  
for the sky,  
for the sky.  
The branches on the tree reach for the sky.  
All through the forest.

### Verse 5:

The leaves on the tree make food, food, food,  
food, food, food,  
food, food, food.  
The leaves on the tree make food, food, food,  
All through the forest.

