



Meeting 19 Trees



Here are three fun ways that you can teach Sunbeams about trees. Adapt them to meet the needs of your Sunbeams or create your own activities.





The following activities partially fulfill the requirements for the Trees award.

ACTIVITY

1

Leaf Printing

15

MINUTES

WHAT YOU DO

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Leaves, a variety of sizes and species
- Construction paper
- Tempera paint
- Paintbrushes, 0.5 and 1 in (1 and 2.5 cm) wide
- Wide, shallow containers
- Newspaper to cover work surface

Ahead of time: Collect the leaves yourself or have the Sunbeams do this with their parents or guardians. If you have the children collect and bring the leaves, you'll want to have extra in case they forget to bring them or they don't bring enough. Make a leaf print to show the Sunbeams before they start their project.

Show the children leaves from three or four different trees. Explain that leaves turn sunlight into food for trees and that leaves also make oxygen for Sunbeams to breathe. Show the Sunbeams a completed leaf print that you have done. To make the leaf print, paint the underside (the side with the most prominent veins) of the leaf. Then place the leaf painted side down onto the construction paper. Press or rub the leaf before lifting it off of the paper. Discard leaf. Pick a new leaf and repeat the process until the paper is filled with leaf prints. Encourage the children to use more than one color of paint and let them know it's okay for the prints to overlap.



Tree Parts Wind Chime

WHAT YOU DO

Ahead of time: Collect tree seeds, bark, pine cones, leaves, etc. Make a sample tree parts wind chime. Tie a 6 in (15 cm) piece of jute to the middle of each branch. This will be used to hang the wind chime.

Share fun facts about tree parts (bring in samples). Remember to discuss trees native to your area. Show the children a sample tree wind chime you made. Then give each child a branch with the jute attached in the middle to hang the wind chime, plus four or five long 3 ft (0.9 m) pieces of jute. Then let them select tree parts that you have brought to the meeting. (You can also have the children contribute to the tree parts used for this project.) Begin by tying one piece of jute about 1 in (2.5 cm) from the end of the branch. Then tie on a tree part by wrapping the jute around the tree part and knotting the jute. Attach four or five tree parts to the piece of jute. After the tree parts are attached to the jute, cut off all but approximately 1 in (2.5 cm) of jute. Repeat the process until the wind chime has four or five pieces of jute with tree parts hanging from the limb. The jute should be spaced evenly.

Suggested resources for fun facts about trees:

- Kids' websites such as savatree.com/kids-tree-facts.html
- Books such as *Trees, Leaves and Bark* by Diane Burns (Cooper Square, 1995) or *I Wonder Why Trees Have Leaves* by Andrew Charman (Kingfisher, 2006), available in Spanish as *Por Que Los Arboles Tienen Hojas?*

TIP

For this project, Sunbeams will need help from an adult to tie the tree parts to the jute, so make sure each child has an adult on hand to assist.

15

MINUTES

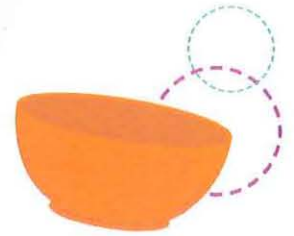
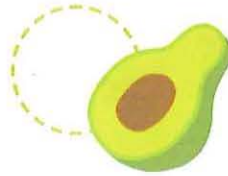
2

ACTIVITY

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Fun facts about parts of trees
- Small, sturdy branch, about 1 ft (0.3 m), one per child
- Parts of trees (pieces of bark, seeds, pine cones, leaves)
- Jute cut into lengths of 3 ft (0.9 m), four or five pieces per project
- Jute cut into 6 in (15 cm) pieces, one per project
- Hole punch





ACTIVITY

3

Grow a Tree

15
MINUTES

WHAT YOU DO

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Avocados, one per child
- Small bowls, one per child
- Spoons, one per child
- Salt
- Garlic powder
- Vegetables or chips
- Clear plastic cups, one per child
- Labels, one per child
- Markers, one per child
- Toothpicks, three per child
- Paper towels
- Knives

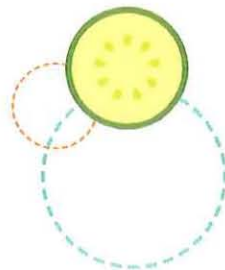
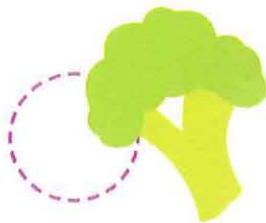
Ahead of time: Ripen avocados in a brown bag if they are not ripe at the time of purchase.

Begin by reading Job 14:7 (ISV): “There is hope for the tree, if it’s cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots won’t stop growing.” Ask the children to explain what sprouts and shoots are. Then give each child an avocado. Discuss how the avocado is the fruit of the tree and in the middle is a large seed that can sprout and grow into a tree.

Give each child an avocado and have an adult cut the avocado in half. Have the children use the spoon to remove the avocado seed and then rinse and dry it. Have each child write Job 14:7 on a label and attach the label to a clear plastic cup. Next, the children will poke toothpicks into three different sides of the avocado seed. (This lets the seed rest on the top of the plastic cup.) Tell the children that when they get home they should place the seed in the cup and fill the cup with water until the water is touching the bottom of the seed. They can watch the roots grow and later plant the seed in a pot of dirt.

Now have the children make guacamole from their avocado. They can use the spoon to scoop out the avocado flesh from the skin. Then using a spoon, they can mash the avocado. Have them add a pinch of salt and garlic powder and stir. Provide cut up vegetables or chips for the children to dip into their guacamole.

Beware of any food allergies before starting this activity and make changes where needed.



Award: Trees

To complete this award, check the requirements on p. 135 and add activities as needed.