

# My Adopt A Tree Journal

Design the cover of your journal in any way you would like!

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## About Me!

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I am participating in the Adopt A Tree challenge. I am learning about what is like to be a citizen scientist.

Citizen scientists observe things in nature. Citizen Scientists are needed to record and report data of what they see happening in nature. My science data is helpful in seeing the changes in plants, animals, insects and more.

My journal is my story on what I have discovered and learned about trees.

### Instructions:

1. To start, find a tree in your yard or neighborhood that you want to adopt. Be sure to choose a tree that you will be able to find again.
2. After you choose your tree, work your way through the adopt a tree journal. You will learn all about your tree as well as practice your scientific observation skills.

## About my Tree

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

My Tree is located \_\_\_\_\_.

I chose to adopt this tree because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Three things I notice about my tree are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Three things I wonder about my tree are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

My tree reminds me of \_\_\_\_\_.

## **My Tree Looks Like This!**

(Draw a picture of your tree or take a picture of your tree and glue it here)

## Characteristics of My Tree

What tree characteristics does your tree have?

My Tree is... (circle all that apply)

Tall

Short

Rough

Smooth

Full of branches

Bare

Has Needles

Has Leaves

Are there any other characteristics about your tree that you notice? If so, list them here:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## What Kind of Tree is my Tree?

There are two main kinds of trees *Deciduous trees* and *Coniferous trees*.

*Deciduous trees* have leaves. Their leaves change color in the fall and they lose their leaves every year. Deciduous trees are flowering trees so they do not have cones.

*Coniferous trees* have needles instead of leaves. Coniferous trees do not lose their needles in the fall and the needles do not change color. Coniferous trees use cones to spread their seeds. If you see a pinecone, you know that your tree is a coniferous tree.

Based on your observations of your tree, can you tell what kind of tree it is?

My tree is *coniferous* or *deciduous*. (circle the answer the applies to your tree)

## My Tree Is Special

Now that you know if your tree is coniferous or deciduous, try to figure out what species of tree your tree is.

You may need to look at different aspects of your tree including the:

- Branches
- Bark
- fruit or flowers
- leaves or needles

For help identifying your tree, try having an adult help you do some research. A good place to start your research is [maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/handbooks\\_guides/forest\\_trees](http://maine.gov/dacf/mfs/publications/handbooks_guides/forest_trees)

I have identified my tree and my tree is a \_\_\_\_\_ tree.

Three cool facts that I learned about my tree are:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_



# My Observations

Now that you are familiar with your tree, observe your tree periodically, maybe every day, every few days, or once a week. Write your observations in the chart below.

Date	What did I see?	What did I hear?	Questions I have

# My Tree Throughout the Year

Draw a picture or take a photo of what your tree looks like in the different seasons.

Spring	Summer
Fall	Winter

# My Tree's Height

Materials:

- A bright and sunny day
- Tape measure or yard stick
- Paper and pencil

Measuring Method: Comparing Shadows

1. Measure your height. Have your adult measure your height in inches.
2. On a bright, sunny day, stand on flat ground near the tree. Find a spot where your shadow falls along flat ground so you can get an accurate measure.
3. Measure the length of your shadow in inches. Use a tape measure or yardstick to measure the distance from your heels to the top of your shadow. Write down this measurement.
4. Measure in inches the length of the tree's shadow immediately after measuring your shadow.
5. Measure the width of the trunk (in inches) with a tape measure.
6. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  the tree's width (in inches) to the length of the tree's shadow.
7. To Calculate the tree's height, use the numbers you wrote down. Multiply the length of the tree's shadow by your height and divide the answer by the length of your shadow.

## Measurements

	Measurement (In Inches)
My height	
Length of my shadow	
Length of my tree's shadow	
My tree's width	
1/2 of my tree's width	

## Calculations:

1. Add half of your tree's width to the length of your tree's shadow.

$$\text{Length of my tree's shadow} + \frac{\text{Tree's Width}}{2} =$$

2. Multiply your answer from step one by your height.

$$\text{Answer to step \#1} \times \text{My height} =$$

3. Divide your answer from step two by the length of your shadow.

$$\frac{\text{Answer to step \#2}}{\text{Length of my shadow}} = \text{Height of my tree}$$

My tree is \_\_\_\_\_ inches tall!

## My Tree's Bark Rubbing

Materials:

- Paper
- Crayon or a pencil

Instructions:

1. Hold your paper on the bark of your tree with one hand. If this too hard for you to do alone, ask a family member to help you by holding your paper over the bark for you.
2. Rub your crayon or pencil over your paper to see what the bark rubbing will look like.
3. Share your bark rubbing with your family and friends or place it inside your adopt a tree journal.

## Tree Scavenger Hunt

Now that you know a little bit more about your tree, it is time to think about what your tree does that you cannot see. Trees have many functions and provide us with a variety of products.

Look for three things in your home that come from trees.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

After you find things your home that come from trees, go on an outdoor adventure and look for the items on a tree scavenger hunt. Can you find all of the items listed below?

A tree seedling

A tree shaped like a triangle

A tree with cones

A tree with smooth bark or bumpy bark

A tree with a nut or fruit

A tree with a bird's nest

A tree stump (Did you know you can estimate a tree's age, by counting the rings in a stump?)

An evergreen tree

This activity was adapted for educational purposes from [extension.illinois.edu/trees3/guide.cfm](http://extension.illinois.edu/trees3/guide.cfm)

## **My Free Page**

Your free page is a place to write a story or a poem about your tree or draw pictures of your tree. Be creative!