



BE A TREE FANTASY GRADES K-2



OVERVIEW

Students will pretend to be trees while listening to and acting out the “Be a Tree Fantasy” story.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Discuss the life cycle of a tree through the seasons. Have students complete the “Seasons of a Tree” worksheet, provided on p.3 of this document.

Review the parts of a tree by completing the “Anatomy of a Tree” worksheet, provided on p.4 of this document.

1. Branches
2. Twigs
3. Leaves
4. Trunk
5. Roots
6. Bark
7. Fruit

This link provides a great interactive overview of why trees change color throughout the seasons:
<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/plants/tree-through-seasons/>

ACTIVITY

Tell the students they are going to pretend to be trees. Have them stand a little more than arm’s length apart. At the start of the story, their arms should be spread like branches, their fingers should be closed in fists like unopened buds, and their toes, like roots, should press downward.

While you are reading the story on the following page, be sure to pantomime it so the students can follow your lead. The story comes from “Hands-On Nature: Information and Activities for Exploring the Environment with Children.”

You are a small tree standing in a big field. It is the end of winter, and your roots are stiff and frozen in the ground. Your branches are bare. Last year's leaves fell off months ago, and the next year's leaves and flowers are inside tight buds, hiding from the cold. Animals like grouse and snowshoe hares nibble some of your buds for winter food. The sky is gray. The last snowstorm of the year starts to swirl around you. Your branches move stiffly in the wind. Your trunk sways back and forth.

Finally, spring comes and the ground thaws, allowing water to reach your roots. Feel the cold water trickle between your roots. Your branches and twigs are thirsty. They need water so that the tight buds can grow into new twigs, leaves, and flowers. Pull the water up through your roots. Stretch tall so that the water can work its way up into your trunk and out to your branches. As more and more water rises and finds its way to the tips of your twigs, the once tight buds now begin to swell. Suddenly they break open, and the leaves and flowers emerge (fingers uncurl and hands spread open). One by one, the leaves unfold and reach toward the sky, and the flowers bloom.

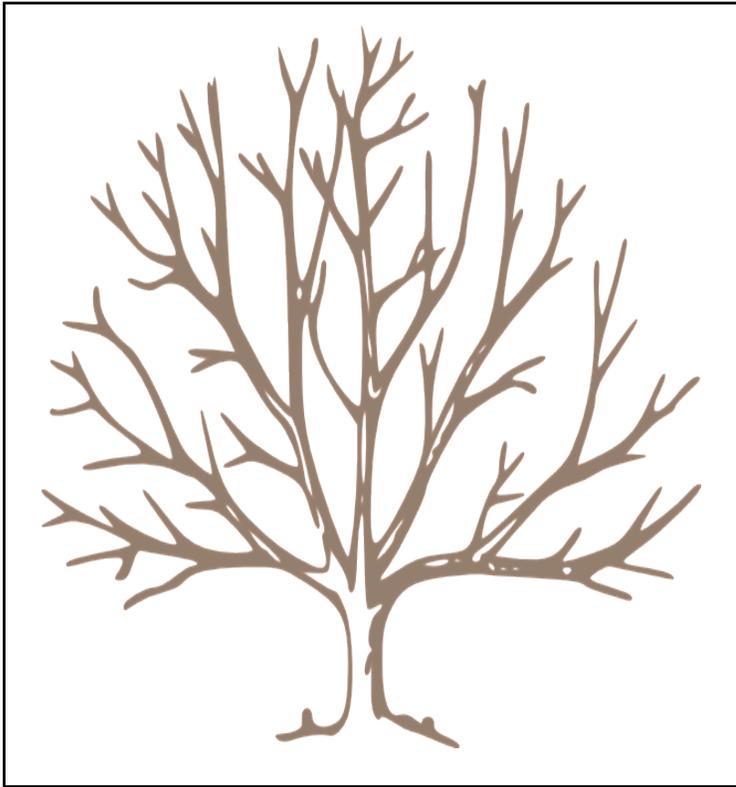
It is growing time for trees. You are hungry and your leaves are working hard to make food for you - spread them wide to catch the sun and feel the warmth soaking in. Your flowers are making seeds for the next generation of trees - feel the small seeds growing. For all this work, you need water from your roots - reach for more water. And you need sunlight from the sky - reach for more sunlight.

Summer passes, and you have grown taller and wider. Stretch your roots, your trunk, and your branches. As the weather grows colder, your leaves stop making food. Suddenly. One fall day, the wind blows hard and the rain pelts down. Feel the cold and the wind. Sway and move your branches. Now that your leaves have weakened, they fall off and blow away, once again leaving tight buds behind (fist clenched again). Those buds hold next spring's leaves and flowers.

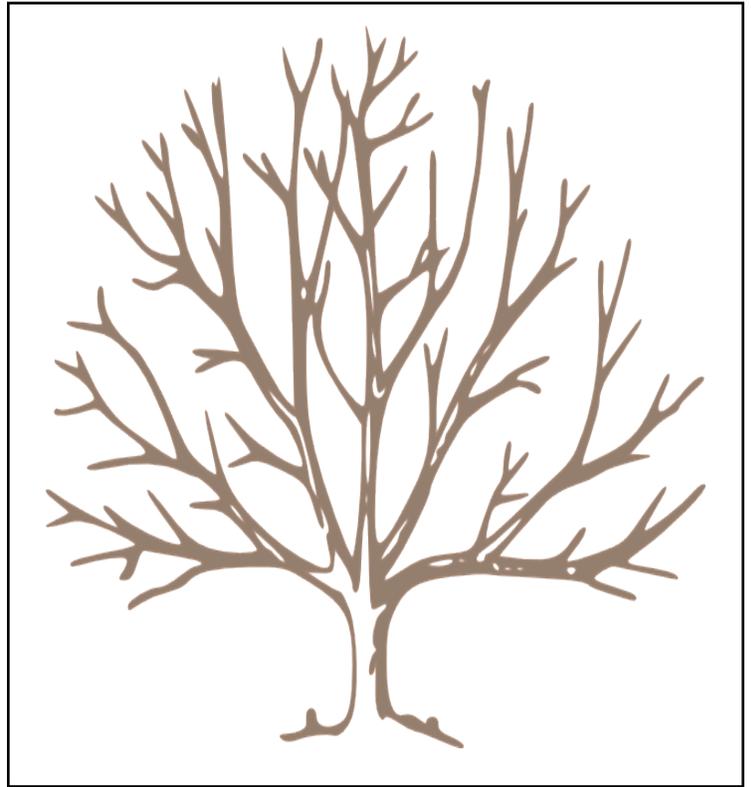
Seasons of a Tree

Decorate the trees for each season.

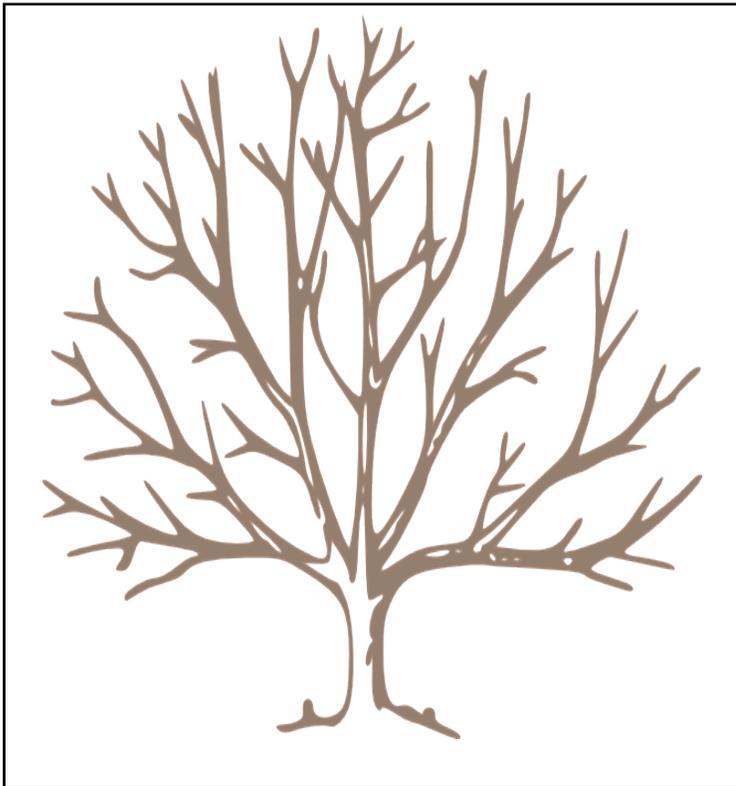
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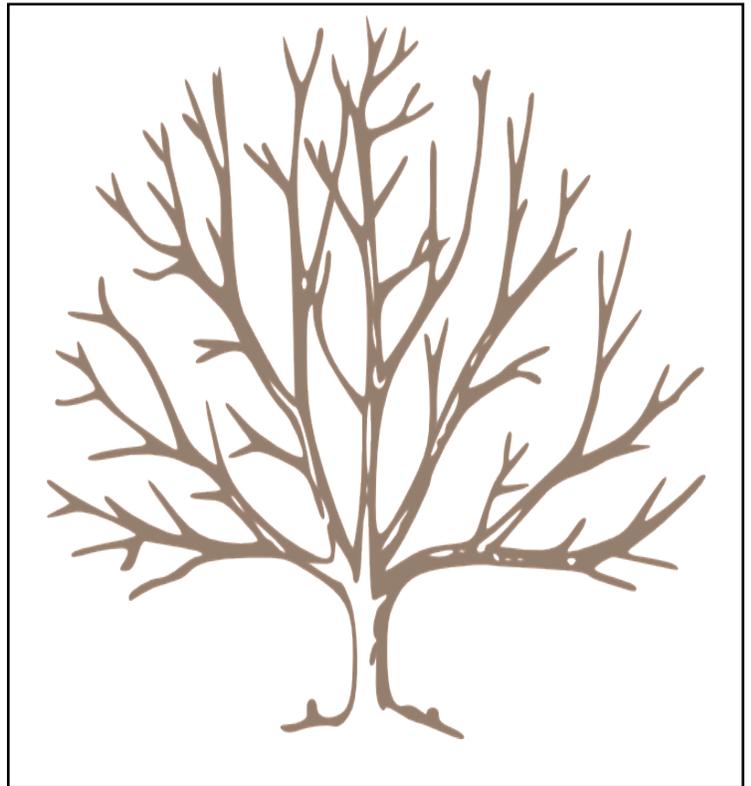
Winter



Spring



Summer



Fall

Anatomy of a Tree

Name: _____

Read the descriptions below and then label the diagram of the tree.

Branches: woody parts of the tree that grow from the trunk.

Twigs: slim woody shoots that grow from a branch or stem of a tree.

Leaves: food processing part of the tree.

Roots: extract food and water from the soil.

Trunk: the main support of the tree.

Bark: protective outer layer of the tree trunk.

Fruit: all the trees that are flowering plants produce fruit.

