



TREE STRUCTURE

Scavenger Hunt

Tree Structure and Benefits Grades: K-8



Overview: (communicated by teacher)

Trees are made up of three main components: the crown (leaves), trunk (branches) and roots. Each part of the tree has a specific job, or function, to help keep the tree alive and healthy.

Method:

1. Take a nature walk around your school and see if you can find the components that make up the structure of a tree!
2. For an extra challenge, see if you can match and identify some of the images below or practice identifying trees based on their components.

LEAF



BRANCH



BARK



SEED



NUT



CROWN



ROOTS



TRUNK



At a glance

Skills:

Critical Thinking
Discussion
Urban Forestry

Lesson Delivery:

(Best/Suggested method in bold)

- **Whole group**
- **Small group**
- Independent work

Location:

(Best/Suggested location in bold)

- **Outdoor**
- Indoors

Materials:

Necessary

- Paper
- Pencils
- Clip Board
- Table/writing surface



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Modifications & Extensions

K-2*

3-5*

6-8*

Modification: Use Tree Part Diagrams with Visual Icons

Provide students with a visual handout showing labeled illustrations of tree parts (e.g., crown, trunk, roots). As they walk, students can check off parts they observe using stickers or stamps. Reinforce learning with a tree song or movement activity that links body parts to tree parts (e.g., arms = branches).

Modification: Provide Function-Focused Graphic Organizers

Give students a worksheet where they match tree parts (crown, trunk, roots) to their functions (e.g., “collects sunlight,” “transports water,” “anchors tree”). Allow space to draw or write examples of each from their walk.

Modification: Incorporate Scientific Terminology and Guided Questions

Use structured observation sheets with prompts like, “Describe the bark texture,” or “Estimate the root spread based on visible clues.” Introduce terms like xylem, phloem, and photosynthesis when discussing function.

Extension: Build a Tree Model with Craft Materials

Back in the classroom, students can create a 3D tree using recycled materials like paper towel rolls for trunks, construction paper for leaves, and yarn for roots. Label each part and discuss its function while building.

Extension: Create a Tree Structure Field Journal

Students can record observations of various trees on campus, drawing and labeling the crown, trunk, and visible roots. Encourage them to compare differences in size, shape, or color and hypothesize how the structure supports the tree’s survival.

Extension: Analyze Tree Structures Across Species

Challenge students to compare tree structures across at least three species found on campus. Have them document variations in crown shape, bark type, and root exposure, then present their findings through a short report, infographic, or slideshow presentation.