

# CREATE YOUR OWN TREE!

Tree Structure and Benefits Grades: K-8

## Overview: (communicated by teacher)

Now, that your students know the essential parts of a tree, they can explore by creating a tree sculpture. It is important to remember that students should only gather items from the ground, please do not harm the trees. The trees can be created individually, in small groups or as a class. Students can use items from nature or draw the parts of a tree on paper. They can place the tree parts on the ground to make a sculpture or glue them to paper.

## Method:

Now that your students know the essential parts of a tree, encourage them to create a tree sculpture. It is important to remember that students should only gather items from the ground. Please do not harm the trees.

### 1. *Placing Roots:*

Place the roots of the tree near the bottom. They can use small twigs to symbolize the roots. Wherever they place them, the tree will have to grow from there.

### 2. *Horizon Line:*

At the top of the roots, create a line horizontally. This will symbolize the ground.

### 3. *Tree Trunk:*

Find the thickest, largest twig and arrange it on the paper. The bottom of it should touch the roots. This is the tree trunk.

### 4. *Branches:*

Connect the branches to the trunk. Arrange larger branches towards the bottom of the crown, and smaller/thin branches at the top of the crown.

5. Connect all the leaves from one leaf type to the branches of the tree.

### 6. *Labeling:*

Have students label the different parts of the tree or have them write a few sentences describing what they learned about trees.

7. Once complete, allow students to introduce their trees to the rest of the class. Optional: show demonstration videos of other Earth Artists such as Andy Goldsworthy.



## 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

- Leaves
- Small Branches
- Twigs or leaf stems

Optional

- Poster Board
- Paper Bag
- Glue
- Tape
- Pencil

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## Modifications & Extensions

**K-2\***

### **Modification: Use Pre-Labeled Tree Mats**

Provide a large piece of paper with labeled sections ("Roots," "Trunk," "Branches," "Leaves") to guide students as they build. Students can glue items in place or arrange them with adult help.

### **Extension: "My Tree's Name and Story"**

After building, students give their tree a name and make up a short story about it (e.g., where it lives, what animals visit it, or what season it likes best). This can be shared with the class to support oral language development.

**3-5\***

### **Modification: Tree Diagram Journal Page**

Add a page where students write the name of each part of the tree, then describe what it does (e.g., "Roots: suck up water from the ground"). This supports science vocabulary and comprehension.

### **Extension: Tree Species Identity Challenge**

After creating their model, students guess what kind of tree their materials came from (oak, maple, pine, etc.) using a basic tree guide or leaf shape chart. They can include this info in their project presentation.

**6-8\***

### **Modification: Add Function Labels**

Have students not only label the parts of the tree (roots, trunk, branches, crown/leaves), but also write a function for each part (e.g., "Trunk: carries water and nutrients up the tree").

### **Extension: Urban Forest Adaptation Discussion**

After presenting their models, students reflect or journal on how trees in their community are adapted to the local environment (e.g., drought resistance, shallow roots for clay soil) and suggest what types of trees would best benefit their campus. Have students create a classroom "forest" with their finish products, to demonstrate the importance of biodiversity.



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## ELAR and Science TEKS Alignment

Module	Lesson	Science TEKS Alignment
2: Tree Structure and Benefits	6.3 Create Your Own Tree- Earth Art	<p>K.1A, K.5A, K.9A, K.10A, K.12A            1.1A, 1.10A, 1.9A, 1.13A, 1.12A            2.1A, 2.10A, 2.9A, 2.13A, 2.12A            3.1A, 3.8A, 3.12A, 3.9A, 3.1F            4.1A, 4.1F, 4.10A, 4.12A            5.1A, 5.10A, 5.12A, 5.13A            6.1A, 6.9A, 6.11A, 6.12A            7.1A, 7.13A, 7.12A, 7.9A            8.1A, 8.11A, 8.12A, 8.13A</p>
		ELAR TEKS Alignment
2: Tree Structure and Benefits	6.3 Create Your Own Tree- Earth Art	<p>K.1A, K.2A, K.9A, K.6A, K.7A            1.1A, 1.2A, 1.6A, 1.7A, 1.9A            2.1A, 2.2A, 2.9A, 2.6A, 2.7A            3.1A, 3.2A, 3.10A, 3.6A, 3.7A            4.1A, 4.2A, 4.7A            5.1A, 5.2A, 5.5A, 5.7A            6.1A, 6.2A, 6.5A, 6.7A            7.1A, 7.2A, 7.7A            8.1A, 8.2A, 8.7A, 8.10A</p>