

## **THE TREE SONG**

**Lesson By:** Dustin Eads

**Grade Level:** First

### **Focus:**

This lesson will address the distinct parts and features of trees.

### **Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to recognize, describe, and explain the purpose of the parts of the features of the trees.
2. Students will be able to understand the interconnectedness that trees have with the forest and natural world.

### **Standards:**

#### **SC 1.1.1 2000**

Observe, describe, draw, and sort objects carefully to learn about them.

#### **SC 1.4.3 2000**

Observe and describe that there can be differences, such as size or markings, among the individuals within one kind of plant or animal group.

#### **SC 1.4.4 2000**

Explain that most living things need food, water, and air.

#### **SCI 1.1.1 2010**

Use all senses as appropriate to identify the component parts of objects and the materials from which they are made.

#### **SCI 1.3.3 2010**

Observe and explain that plants and animals have basic needs for growth and survival: plants need to take in water and need light, and animals need to take in water and food and have a way to dispose of waste.

#### **SCI 1.3.5 2010**

Observe and describe ways in which animals and plants depend on one another for survival.

### **Background:**

One of the best ways to teach kids about trees is to show them that a tree is made of many distinct parts. This song is a great way to precede a deeper lesson on what exactly a tree's roots, stem, fruits, seeds, leaves, and crown are and what they do. Once they learn about the tree's parts, they can understand how trees as a whole function and what makes one species of tree unique from others.

The song is to the tune of "Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes." It is accompanied by hand motions indicating the part of the tree that is being sung about at the moment. The motions are illustrated below.

A sample discussion surrounding tree parts is included in the procedure. Please adjust the content to fit your student's interest and abilities.

### **Materials:**

1. Open Area

## **Procedures: (20 Minutes Total)**

1. Sing the song with your students while making motions for each part of the tree mentions in the song.
2. Invite your students to sing along with you. Do a few rounds until everyone has memorized the song.
3. Proceed by asking questions about the different parts as you sing the song. Ask about the crown, the branches, the trunk, the roots, the leaves, the seeds, the flowers, and the fruits.

### **The Crown**

- The crown is the leafy top of the tree.
- Explain that the crown of the tree is like the crown of your head, the top. Your head holds your hair and the crown holds the leaves.
- Ask why the crown is at the top of the tree. Why would it be better if the leaves were high up on the tree?
  - The leaves can get more sunlight if they are high up and are not shaded by other plants.
  - The leaves are held up at the top of the tree to get water through something called transpiration. Transpiration is the tree's own way to "sweat" except the tree draws water from the bottom to the top. Transpiration works the same way that sucking on the end of a straw draws water up into the mouth; it creates a vacuum.
- Ask what would happen if the crown caught on fire and burned up or something else made it disappear.
  - The tree would not get the energy from the sun that it needs and it would die.
  - Also, it would be unable to draw water from its roots; that would also kill it.

### **The Branches**

- Ask your class to point out the tree's branches.
- Explain that the tips of branches make up the crown of the tree.
- Ask what do the branches do?
  - They hold the leaves out to the light. The branches are spread out high in the tree so that a maximum number of leaves can get sunlight.
  - The branches also hold flowers, fruits and seeds.

### **The Trunk**

- Ask your class to point out the trunk of the tree.
- What does the trunk do?
  - It supports the tree's crown and branches.
  - It contains tubes that hold all the water and food/nutrients that the tree uses to live. One tube is called the xylem which helps moves water in the tree. The other tube is called the phloem that helps move the food or nutrients throughout the tree.

### **The Roots**

- Ask your class to point out the roots.
- What do the roots do?
  - The roots suck and draw out water and nutrients out of the soil.

### **The Leaves**

- Ask your class to point out the leaves.
- Ask what do the leaves look like? How are they shaped? How do they feel? Are they large or small? Why do you think the leaves are like this? How could they help the tree?
- What do the leaves do?
  - The leaves captures the sun's light to help make their own food. This process is called photosynthesis.

### **The Seeds**

- Ask the class to point out any seeds that they see on the ground.
- Ask what does the seed does?
  - It grows a new plant.

### **The Flowers**

- Ask the class to point out any flowers that they see around them.
- Ask what colors they usually see on flowers?
- Ask why those colors are important?
  - Those colors attract animals especially insects like bees or butterflies.
- Ask what the flowers do?
  - They turn into fruit by a process called pollination.
  - When pollen is put into a flower, the flower then matures and grows into a fruit that contains the seeds.
  - The animals help pollinate by putting pollen on different flowers as they fly from one flower to another.

### **The Fruits**

- Ask the class if they can see any fruits. Mention that there are other fruits than what they see at the market. Anything that holds seeds is a fruit like an acorn.
- Ask what the fruit does.
  - It holds the seeds that help create a new tree.
- Ask how the tree spreads new seeds from one place to another.
  - The wind can blow seeds to new places to grow.
  - Water can carry seeds as well.
  - Animals help bring seeds to new places. Sometimes animals pick up seeds and drop them as they are carrying them. Sometimes they eat the seeds and when they go to the bathroom the seeds are still intact allowing them to still grow.

### **Evaluation:**

1. The students will be able to recite the Tree Song with the motions involved.
2. Once back from Camp Adventure the students can draw a tree and label the different parts with or without the instructor's help.

## The Tree Song

Crown, branches, trunk and roots  
Trunk and roots!

Crown, branches, trunk and roots  
Trunk and roots!

Leaves and seeds and  
Flowers and fruits!

Leaves and seeds and  
Flowers and fruits!

Crown, branches, trunk and roots  
Trunk and roots!

(Repeat 2-3 times)