



DALLAS ARBORETUM
Education

Garden STEM at Home
Get in Touch with Trees



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.

GET IN TOUCH WITH TREES



OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL USE THEIR SENSES TO EXPLORE THE SHAPES AND TEXTURES OF TREES AND THEIR PARTS.

SOURCE

Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide

BACKGROUND

Scientific exploration is largely based on utilizing our senses. This sensory lesson, which uses mystery boxes, provides an engaging sensory experience to do initial learning on any topic. For today's lesson, the focus is on exploring trees!

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Create mystery boxes which contain fallen parts of trees from your neighborhood or schoolyard. Objects could include different leaves, pieces of bark and nuts, seeds or fruits.
2. Ask kids to reach in the boxes, gently feel the object and then, using the trees around them for clues, try to predict what the object is (leaf, bark or fruit) and which tree it comes from.
3. Take it further:
 - (A). Use a field guide to identify the trees
 - (B). Ask kids to create their own mystery boxes based on another nature theme, such as rocks, soil, fur or household objects made from tree parts.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Download the Getting in Touch with Trees Family Guide:

https://www.plt.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/PLT_Act2_Getting_In_Touch_with_Trees.pdf

Explore the Getting in Touch with Trees Additional Resources Guide from PLT:

<https://www.plt.org/activity-resources/prek-8-activity-2-get-in-touch-with-trees/>

Trees, Leaves, and Bark by Diane Burns, ISBN: 1559716282