



DALLAS ARBORETUM
Education

Garden STEM at Home
Trees in Trouble



WE GROW MINDS, TOO.



OBJECTIVE:

STUDENTS WILL RECOGNIZE SYMPTOMS OF UNHEALTHY TREES AND DESCRIBE POSSIBLE CAUSES.

SOURCE

Project Learning Tree PreK-8 Activity Guide

BACKGROUND

Just like other plants and animals, trees require plenty of water, nutrients, room to grow and a stress-free environment to flourish. If these needs are not met, a tree may grow slowly or even die.

Similarly to humans, we can look for symptoms to help us identify a stressed tree. Distressed trees may exhibit symptoms like loss of color or leaves, insect bore holes or even weeping wounds that indicate something is amiss.

Another way to explore the health of a tree over time, is by investigating the growth rings of a harvested tree.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Discuss the basic needs of all living things, including trees, and what may happen to a tree if these needs are not met.
2. Compare the elements that keep a human healthy with those that keep a tree healthy.
3. Distribute the Tree-tective Trouble Guide and Reading Leaf Symptoms handout from the first link below.
4. Visit the schoolyard, neighborhood or park to take notes and make hypothesis about trees in trouble in your area.
5. Optional: (1) adopt a tree in trouble, (2) observe a dead or decaying tree for signs of life and decomposition, or (3) find a cross section or tree stump to investigate the life of a tree.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Explore the Trees in Trouble Texas Connection Additional Resources Guide from PLT:
http://www.plttexas.org/uploadedFiles/Websites/PLT_Texas/Content/Texas_Connection/Activity%2077%20Trees%20in%20Trouble.pdf

Explore the Trees in Trouble Additional Resources Guide from PLT:
<https://www.plt.org/activity-resources/prek-8-activity-77-trees-in-trouble/>

Red Butte Garden Lesson Reading Rings:
<https://www.redbuttegarden.org/documents/botany-bins/pp-lesson-4-complete-lesson.pdf>