

Get to know a tree

Tūhono ki nga rākau



Learning
in Nature

Activity
Card

This activity acknowledges Tāne - Ātua of the forest, trees and all that Tāne has to offer.

He rākau nō wai? he rākau nā Tāne. Tāne te wainui, Tāne te wairoa, Tāne te waiora. A tree from who? A tree from Tāne. Tāne of plenty, Tāne of maturity.



CONNECT TO TĀNE



- Find a tree to sit/stand beside.
- Close your eyes. What can you hear?



- Open your eyes, what can you see?
- Can you see leaves/seeds/bark/fruit?
- What lives in your tree, on or under your tree?



- How does your tree feel, smell, look, move?
- Move like a tree - in the wind, in Autumn, in Spring, in the rain.

Note down your observations in pictures or words.

Give your tree a name that reflects what you have noticed about it.

- 1 'Poet - tree' - Trees are a good place for creativity and inspiration. Sit/stand/lie under your chosen tree and write a whakataukī or poem while you are there.
- 2 Use a frame or magnifying glass to focus on particular parts of your chosen tree that interest you (e.g. the bark, plants growing on the tree, leaves, light shining through the tree, the shadows it makes on the ground).



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government



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Healthy Nature
Healthy People

CURRICULUM LINKS

Getting to know your tree better

- *Observe your chosen tree(s) at different times of day.*
- *Would you notice different things at different times of day, over weeks, months?*
- *Revisit your chosen tree regularly and see if there are any changes (e.g. leaves changing colour, leaves falling).*

The Arts

- Create tree shadow art - on a sunny day, lay out a long piece of paper next to a tree and outline the shadow.
- Create leaf and bark rubbings.



Social Science

- Explore your own values about trees. Is there a tree that is special to you? Why? Reflect on your personal experiences with trees (e.g. tree climbing, going on picnics, playing in leaves, fruit picking).

Technology



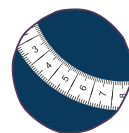
- Consider what digital technology could be used to help observe your chosen tree(s).
- Make your own paper and write your poems on it.
- Register at inaturalist.nz to identify unknown nature.

English

- If your chosen tree(s) could talk, what would it say? Consider what the tree would see, hear, feel.
- Could it tell you anything about the history of your school? If this tree were your ancestor, what would they say to you?
- Write a story about a day in the life of your tree.
- Read Whakarongo ki ō Tūpuna/Listen to your Ancestors for inspiration.
- Create a factsheet about your tree(s). Factsheets in the DOC Experiencing native trees resource provide examples.

Health and Physical Education

- With a buddy use your body to create a tree shadow. Your buddy can trace your shape on concrete.
- Which trees are safe for climbing? Practice safe climbing with help from your teacher. Learn about Tree Climbing Extraordinaires.
- Flow through a tree pose.
- Play the meet your needs game (in the DOC Experiencing native trees resource, page 20-21).



Mathematics and Statistics - Geometry and Measurement

- Measure the circumference of your chosen tree(s).
- Estimate the height of your chosen tree(s). What unit of measure is best to use?

Science - Living World

- Sketch and label parts of your chosen tree(s).
- Create a class list of your chosen trees. Categorise them into native, endemic and introduced species.
- Consider what your chosen tree(s) would look like and what their role would be in different seasons.
- Create food chains or webs for your chosen tree(s).

FIVE WAYS TO WELLBEING

