

Learning Outdoors

Lesson Title: Who Lives in That Tree?	Quick Facts:
Big Idea: Develop awareness of trees and animals that call them "home".	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • many animals live in trees • beetles, ants,
Anchor Story: <i>One Small Place in a Tree</i> by Barbara Brenner ~or~ <i>A Tree Can Be...</i> by Judy Nayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> worms & spiders may spend their whole life in or around one tree
Materials & Prep: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • story book • iPads • two plastic ice cream pails, and 40-50 pinecones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • squirrels, raccoons, opossums or frog use a tree as home base and venture out for food and water
Outdoors (procedures) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Review forest safety rules before heading to outdoor class (2) Read <i>One Small Place in a Tree</i> and ask what kind of animals do you think live in the surrounding trees? Why is a tree a good home? (shelter, food) Would a tree be good home for people? (3) Using the rhyme "Look up, look down, look all around, let's look at the ____." (top-canopy, middle-trunk or branches, bottom-roots) to focus the children's attention to different parts of the trees (4) Take photographs of any animals or signs (nests, burrows, chewed on leaves, pine cone husks...) of animals you see (5) Before heading back to the school yard, discuss animals you saw or perhaps heard... and Would a tree be good home for people? What do trees give us? (fruit, nuts, wood for homes and furniture, paper products...) (6) In the school yard play "Squirrels"- On one side of the field is our tree nests (empty ice cream pails-one for each team) and the other side is our feeding area (pine cone spread out). Each squirrel will run from their team's nest to the feeding area and return with a pine cone to fill their nest. Taking turns (relay style) squirrels race to fill their nest before the other team does. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • birds, bees, or bats may only use trees for resting spots, temporary shelters, or to eat • trees provide food and shelter • animals eat tree fruits, seeds, buds, flowers, leaves, bark and roots • leaves provide shelter from rain, branches and trunk are used as nesting sites, roots and base a place to burrow • even dead trees give food and shelter to termites, beetles and small critters • people rely on trees for food (fruit, nuts) and shelter or wood for shelters
Extensions: <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Math <input type="checkbox"/> Music <input type="checkbox"/> Home Connection </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art- build bird nests using brown paper bags, mud and nesting material (yarn, leaves, grass, sticks, dryer lint...) • Math- sort pine cones by size and shape 	Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • observations • discussion

Lesson plan adapted from "Growing Up Wild: Exploring Nature with Young Children" 2012