

Your Personal Artist Tree

Lesson prepared by Esther Saulnier

This art activity can be used in conjunction with the study of trees in your local forests. What do your students know about trees? What types of trees are growing locally? Check with your Department of Natural Resources and Forestry for resource materials to complement this activity. This art activity blends well with science class and can be expanded to include a writing activity.

Objective of activity:

To create a tree that reflects your individual *Personal-I-Tree*.

This art activity has 3 Dimensions

Grades P-2 will complete a 1-Dimensional art activity.

Grades 3-4 will complete a 2-Dimensional art activity.

Grades 5-6 will complete a 3-Dimensional art activity.

Grades Primary-2 Supplies for 1-Dimensional Art



1 plate per student (makes great frames for art)



Construction paper cut to fit within the rim of plate. This creates a frame for the art work.

Crayons, markers or paints depending on time for clean up after.

Stickers that can be added to tree once it is complete

A branch from a tree and an assortment of leaves to look at.



To begin:

Discuss local trees. Show pictures and talk about the roots, trunks and leaves.

Having real samples of roots, bark and leaves for the children to see, touch and smell will enhance the senses and help to enrich the imagination when it's time to draw their tree.

** Be aware of any allergies beforehand.*

Students can look at the branch and see how it is thicker at the end that attaches to the tree, just like our arms are thicker where they attach to our body.

Look at the leaves and see how different they are. How they have a tiny stem that attaches to the branch like our fingers attach to our hand.

Ask questions to stimulate individual imaginations:

Where do trees live? What do trees do? Do they change? When would a tree change? How do trees change? Do trees grow anything else besides leaves? Does anything live in a tree?

Ask the students to close their eyes now and imagine they are a tree. Take time and have fun with this part. Have them stand and be a tree.

What would it be like to be a tree if you could be any kind of tree you could imagine? Where would you live? What would you do? What color would you be?

Ask them to think about their branches and leaves. How long are their branches, what color are their leaves. What kind of branch does their tree have? Are they curly or straight? Does it have stripes or polk-a-dots? Is the wind moving their branches?

Do they have something growing in their branches? Allow a few minutes for them to get a mental picture.

When they open their eyes, ask them to choose a color they like for their branch. Any color and pattern is acceptable as this is their imaginary tree.



Demonstrate for them how to draw a branch by beginning with the thick part and then getting smaller as they reach the opposite corner of their paper



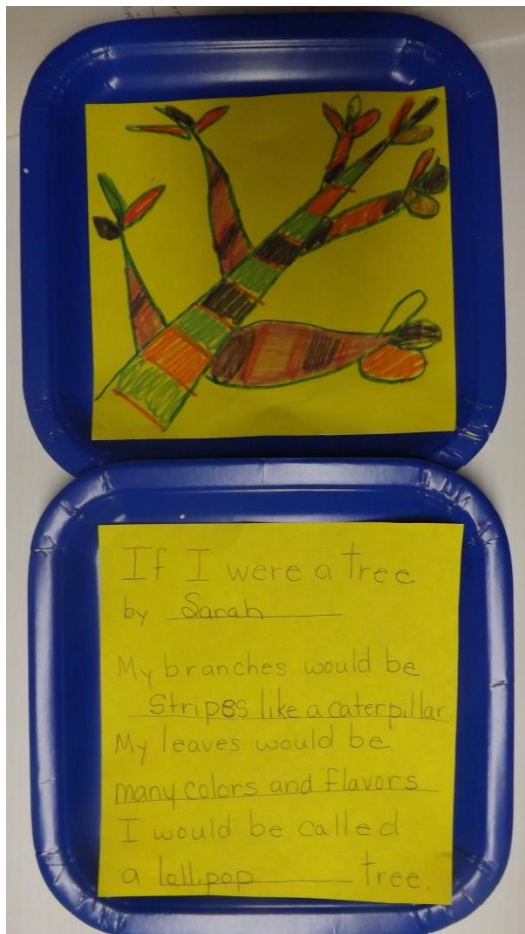
Have them draw their branch and then add smaller ones reaching out from the main branch. How do their branches reach for the corner? Next have them look at leaves and how they attach to the branch.

Have them draw their imaginary leaves onto their tree branch. How are their leaves attached to their branch?

Have the children name their tree and sign their name and date on their art work.



*Option: Add a sticker to the tree branch.



If I were a tree
by Sarah
My branches would be
stripes like a caterpillar
My leaves would be
many colors and flavors
I would be called
a lollipop tree.

This activity can be extended into a writing activity.

Simply add another plate with the sheet that follows.

If I were a Tree by _____

My branches would be _____.

My leaves would be _____.

I would be called a _____ Tree.

Grades 3 - 4 Supplies for 2Dimensional Art



1 plate per student (makes great frames for art)



*Optional: construction paper cut to fit within the rim of plate. This creates a frame for the art.

Branch from a tree



Assortment of leaves.



White liquid glue and a variety of materials to make bark and leaves

i.e. cardboard, tissue paper, beads, wrapping paper, yarn, artificial flowers, plastic table cloth, etc

Scissors

To begin:

Discuss local trees. Show pictures and talk about the roots, trunks and leaves.

Having real roots, bark and leaves for the children to see, touch and smell will enhance the senses and help to enrich the imagination when it's time to draw their tree. As you know, always be aware of any allergies beforehand.

Students can then look at a branch and see how it is thicker at the end that attaches to the tree, just like our arms are thicker where they attach to our body.

Look at the leaves and see how different they are. How they have a tiny stem that attaches to the branch like our fingers attach to our hand.

Ask questions to stimulate individual imaginations:

Where do trees live? What do trees do? Do they change? When would a tree change? How do trees change? Do trees grow anything else besides leaves? Does anything live in a tree?

Ask the children to close their eyes now and imagine they are a tree. Take time and have fun with this part. Have them stand and be a tree.

What would it be like to be a tree if you could be any kind of tree you could imagine? Where would you live? What would you do? What color would you be?

Ask them to think about their branches and leaves. How long are their branches, what color are their leaves? What kind of branch does their tree have? Are they curly or straight? Does it have stripes or poke-a-dots? Is the wind moving their branches?

Do they have something growing in their branches? Allow time for them to get a mental picture.

When they open their eyes, pass out plates and demonstrate how to make a branch by pouring the liquid white glue going from wide to narrow.



Add additional branches from the main branch. Students can create their branches in a similar manner on their plates. Once they find the texture they want for their branch they can begin adding it to the glue. The one below is made of cardboard paper torn into tiny pieces to simulate bark. One has glitter added to the glue.



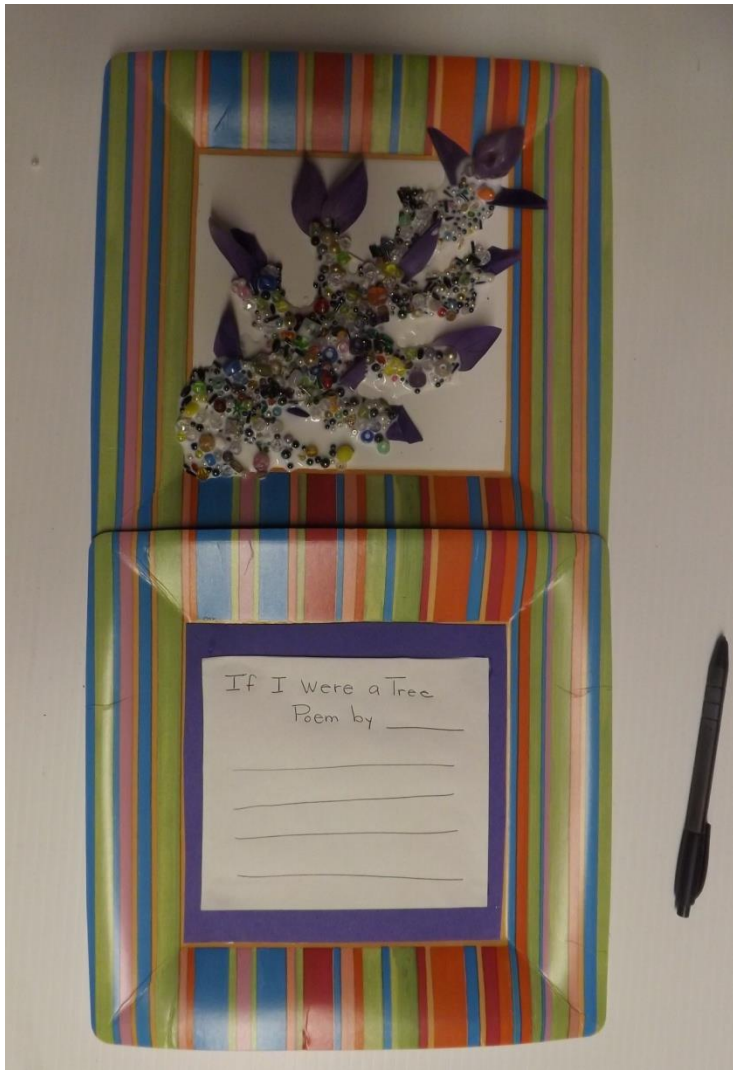
Black ink or paint can be added with a toothpick, or end of a paintbrush, to create a birch tree effect. Another is made with small beads. The paintbrush handle or a toothpick will help move the beads into place.

Next choose material for the leaves.





Once the branches are complete, the activity can be expanded to include a writing component by simply adding another plate and a poem about their tree.



Don't forget to name the tree and sign and date your art work.

Grades 5-6 Supplies for 3-Dimensional Art

1 branch from a tree for each student.



1 length of ribbon, wire or raffia for each student to make a hanger for their branch.

Crafting wire (to attach 7- 12 leaves to each branch)

Assortment of leaves for class to examine.

Variety of fabrics, textures, wrapping paper, cardboard, tissue paper, beads, yarn, artificial flowers, plastic table cloth, etc.

Liquid glue Scissors Floral tape

For extending the activity into a writing activity

A paper plate per student (makes great frames for art)



*Optional: Construction paper cut to fit within the rim of plate. This creates a frame for the art work.

To begin:

Ask students to describe a tree. What kinds of trees are there in our environment? What do they look like? Where do they grow? Do they lose their leaves? Why are they important to our environment?

Share pictures of various types of trees in your area.

Discuss the differences in roots, trunks, branches and leaves. Having real samples of roots, bark and leaves for the children to see, touch and smell will enhance the senses and help to enrich the imagination when it's time to draw their tree. As you know always be aware of any allergies beforehand.

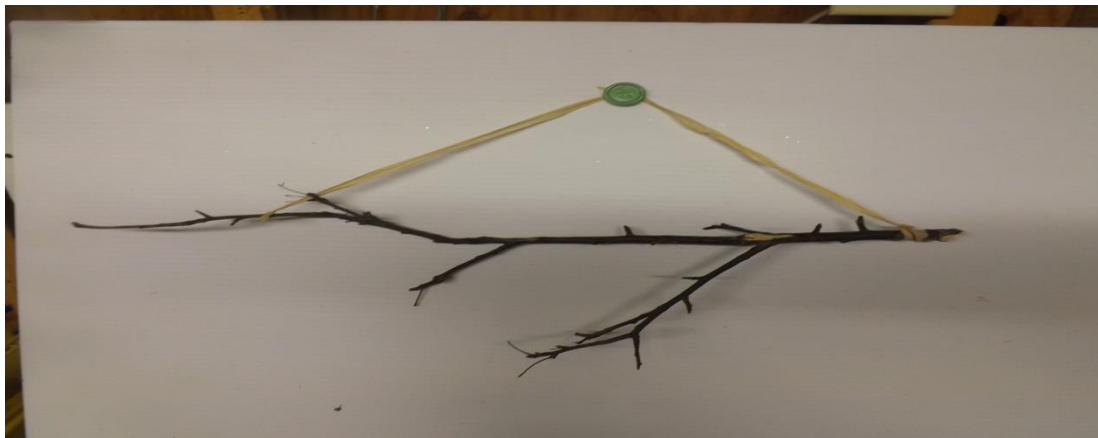
Students can then look at the branch and see how it is thicker at the end that attaches to the tree just like our arms are thicker where they attach to our body.

Look at the leaves and see how different they are. How they have a tiny stem that attaches to the branch like our fingers attach to our hand.

Ask the students to stand, close their eyes and imagine they are a tree. Take time and have fun with this part. What would it be like to be a tree if you could be any kind of tree you could imagine? Where would you live? What would you do? What color would you be?

Ask them to think about their branches and leaves. How long are their branches, what color are their leaves? What kind of branch does their tree have? Are they curly or straight? Does it have stripes or poke-a-dots? Is the wind moving their branches? Do they something growing in their branches? Allow a few minutes for them to get a mental picture.

When they open their eyes, pass out the branches and have the students attach the hanger they chose to the branch so it can be hung.





Choose a fabric or paper texture for the leaves. By folding the fabric or paper in two and cutting through both pieces you will get a top and bottom for your leaf. Apply glue and a wire to the inside of one leaf.



Place the other leaf on top and press down.

Make several leaves for your branch.

Attach each leaf to the branch with the floral tape.



Hanging two wires from the branch gives the illusion of leaves falling. The wires can also be used to hold the poem when extending the activity to include writing. Simply add attach the plate to the wire with tape and add a poem naming their tree. Sign and date your art.

