My Tree Journal

Name:_____

Date:_____

My Tree

1. Choose a tree to observe.

Observing My Tree

To make an observation means looking at something very closely. You can use your five senses and science tools such as a hand lens to observe.

2. Go outside and look your tree. List your observations.

3. What makes it a tree?

My Tree KWL Chart

In the first column, write what you already know about the topic. In the second column, write what you want to know about the topic. After the lesson, write what you learned in the third column.

What I **K**now	What I **W**ant to Know	What I **L**earned

Drawing My Tree

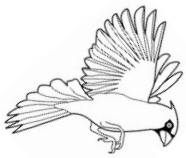
From a Distance

1. Go to your tree.
   Walk 20 steps away from your tree.
   Then draw what your tree looks like from a distance.

A Mouse's View

2. Pretend you are a teeny tiny mouse.
   What would your tree look like if you were a mouse?
   Draw your tree from below.

A Bird's View



3. Imagine you are a bird flying above your tree.

   How would your tree look?
   Draw your tree from <u>above?</u>

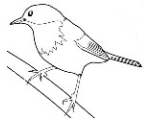
Trees as Habitats

1. Which of these is important in a habitat? (Circle)

food water TV shelter computer air

2. How do birds, mammals, insects, and other living things use trees as their habitats?

3. Look at your tree. Which of these do you see in your tree? Place an X in the box for each one you see.

 Flower	Spider web	Hole in trunk	Bird 
Insect	Moss	Brown leaves	Mushroom or fungus
Vine	Squirrel	Nuts or acorns 	Nest

4. How many did you find? _____

5. What living things do you think use your tree?

   How do you think they use it?

Living Things	**How it uses the tree**
Cardinal 	It makes a nest in the tree. It eats fruit and nuts from the tree.

Leaves

Most deciduous trees have broad leaves that drop in the fall.

Most coniferous trees have needles that stay on the tree all year.

1. Is your tree **deciduous** or **coniferous**? (Circle)

2. Observe one leaf very closely.

3. Use the next page to draw your leaf. Include as many details as you can. Make it the same size it is.

   Check off each detail you draw:

   ____ Size of my leaf
   ____ Shape of my leaf
   ____ Colors of my leaf
   ____ Stem of my leaf
   ____ Veins
   ____ Any holes or missing pieces
   ____ Other details I notice

My Leaf Drawing

Answer some questions about your leaf.

1. What color is your leaf?_____

2. Are the colors the same on both sides? (circle)

   yes no somewhat

3. How does your leaf feel? Circle the texture words that describe your leaf.

   dry wet bumpy smooth warm cool furry

4. Add some more texture words of your own:

5. What does your leaf smell like?

6. Does it remind you of any other smells?

7. What other characteristics stand out about your leaf? Describe its shape, branching, leaf edges, etc.

8. What is the shape of your leaf? _____

9. Are all of the leaves on your tree the same shape? (circle)

yes no somewhat

10. What else do you notice? Are there other characteristics that make this leaf unique?

Seeds

1. Does your tree have seeds that you can see right now? (circle)

yes no unsure

2. Tree seeds come in a variety of packages. *What kind of seeds does your tree have? (circle one)*

fruit nuts acorns pods "helicopter" seeds cones

If you can't see one of your tree's seeds, look it up online to see what it looks like.

My Seed Drawing

3. Observe one of your tree's seeds closely.
Draw a picture of one of your tree's seeds, adding as many details as you can.

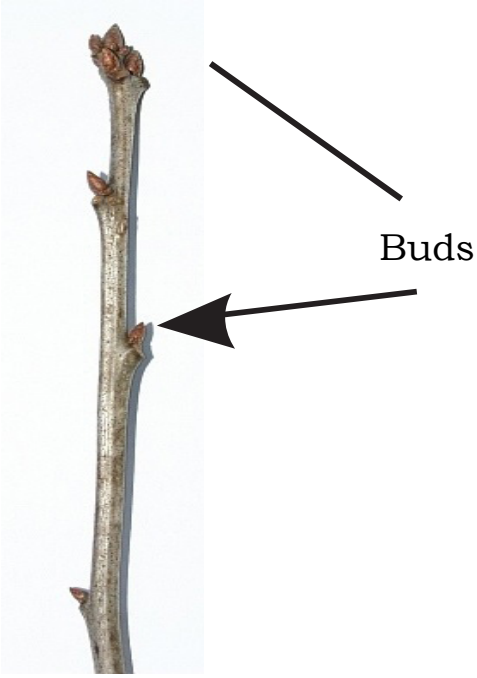
Twigs and Branches

1. Look at a twig from your tree.
It has different parts you can identify.

2. Leaves, stems, and sometimes flowers are located in packages called buds.

Do you see buds on your twig? (circle)

Yes No Not sure



3. Are leaves and twigs arranged in an alternate, opposite, or whorled pattern?

Circle the pattern that most closely matches what you see.

alternate

opposite

whorled

My Twig Drawing

2. Draw your twig on this page. Include as many details as you can.

Check off the details you have included:

__ Color
__ Shape
__ Size
__ Buds
__ Spots, holes, patterns, marks

Bark

1. Observe your tree's bark. Feel the texture. Describe it in detail.

2. Take a piece of blank, white paper and hold it flat against your tree's bark.
   Use the side of a crayon to make a texture rubbing of your bark.

3. When done, you can store the rubbing in this journal.

Measure Your Tree's Trunk

Perimeter is the distance around an object. The perimeter around a circle is called the circumference.

1. Work with a partner.
2. Wrap a piece of string around your tree's trunk. Make sure the string is level all the way around.
3. While your partner holds the string, carefully cut it where it meets the beginning of the string.
4. Write your name on a piece of masking tape. Attach the tape to your string so you can identify it later.
5. How does the length of your string compare to the strings of the other students? Is your sting:

Longer Shorter About the same

The length of your string is the **circumference**, or the distance all the way around, your tree's trunk.

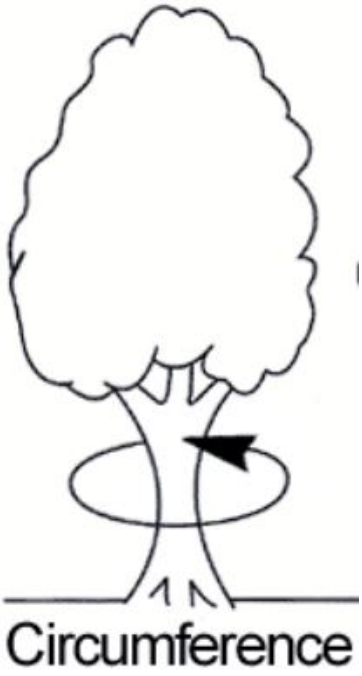
6. Use Unifix cubes to measure your string.

How many Unifix cubes did you need?

_____ cubes

7. Use a measuring tape to measure your string.
How many inches is your string?

_____ inches



Remember, the **circumference** is the perimeter around the trunk.

8. Measure the circumference of your tree at different heights on the tree.

1 foot from the ground = _____ inches

2 feet from the ground = _____ inches

4.5 feet from the ground = _____ inches

9. What did you notice? Did the measurement of the trunk: (circle)

a. Stay the same

b. Get bigger as you moved up from the ground

c. Get smaller as you moved up from the ground

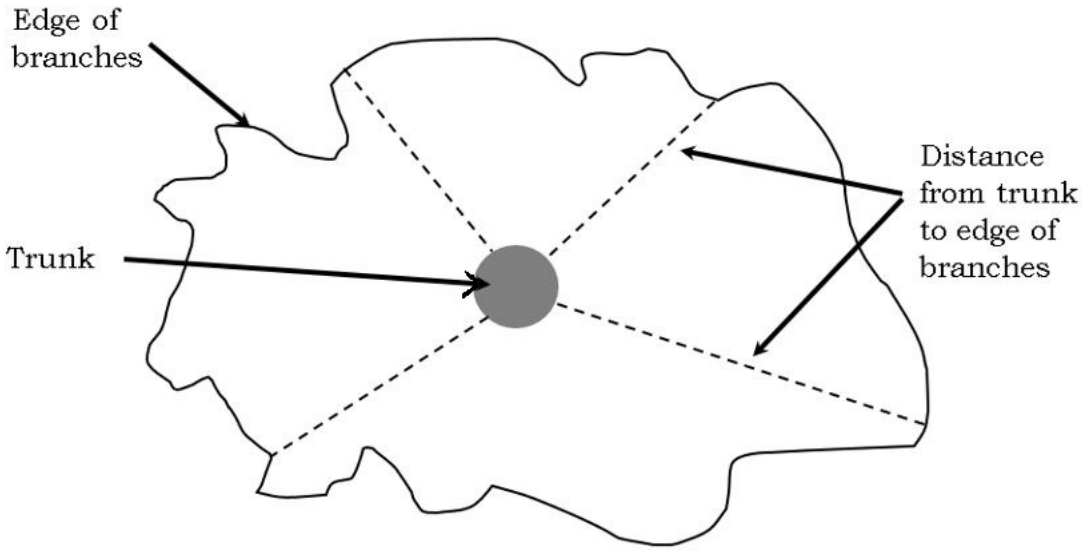
d. Other:_____

10. Foresters always measure circumference at 4.5 feet from the ground. Why do you think they take measurements from this height only?

Measure your tree's average crown spread

All the branches together make up a tree's crown.

The average crown spread is the average distance that the branches reach away from the trunk.



1. Have a partner hold one end of the tape measure next to the tree's trunk.
2. Pull the tape measure away from the trunk. Stop when you reach where the branches end above you. Record the distance in the table below. Repeat steps 1 and 2 four times.
3. Find the total by adding the four distances together.
4. Find the average crown spread by dividing the total by four (the number of measurements you took).

First measurement	inches
Second measurement	inches
Third measurement	inches
Fourth measurement	inches
TOTAL	inches
Divide the total by 4 to get the **average crown spread**	inches

“Poet-tree” Poetry

Sit by your tree. Observe your tree closely. Make a detailed drawing of your tree. Then look around. What else is nearby? Draw the surroundings. Include as many details as you can.

Acrostic poems are like acronyms. The first letter in each line, read vertically spells what it is describing. Here is one about a TREE.

Towering
Reaching
Extending
Embracing the sky

Write two acrostic poems.

1.

2.

Species

Identify your tree's species.

Now that you have closely observed your tree's leaves, twigs and seeds, use a tree identification book or website to identify your tree.

1. Tree species name:_____

2. Does your tree have common names? What are they?

3. After learning about my tree, I am surprised that:

4. Go back to your KWL chart and fill in what you have learned.

5. Do you have more things you want to learn? Add them to the middle column on the chart.

Visiting your tree

Date: _____

How has your tree **changed**?

How has your tree **stayed the same**?

Visiting your tree

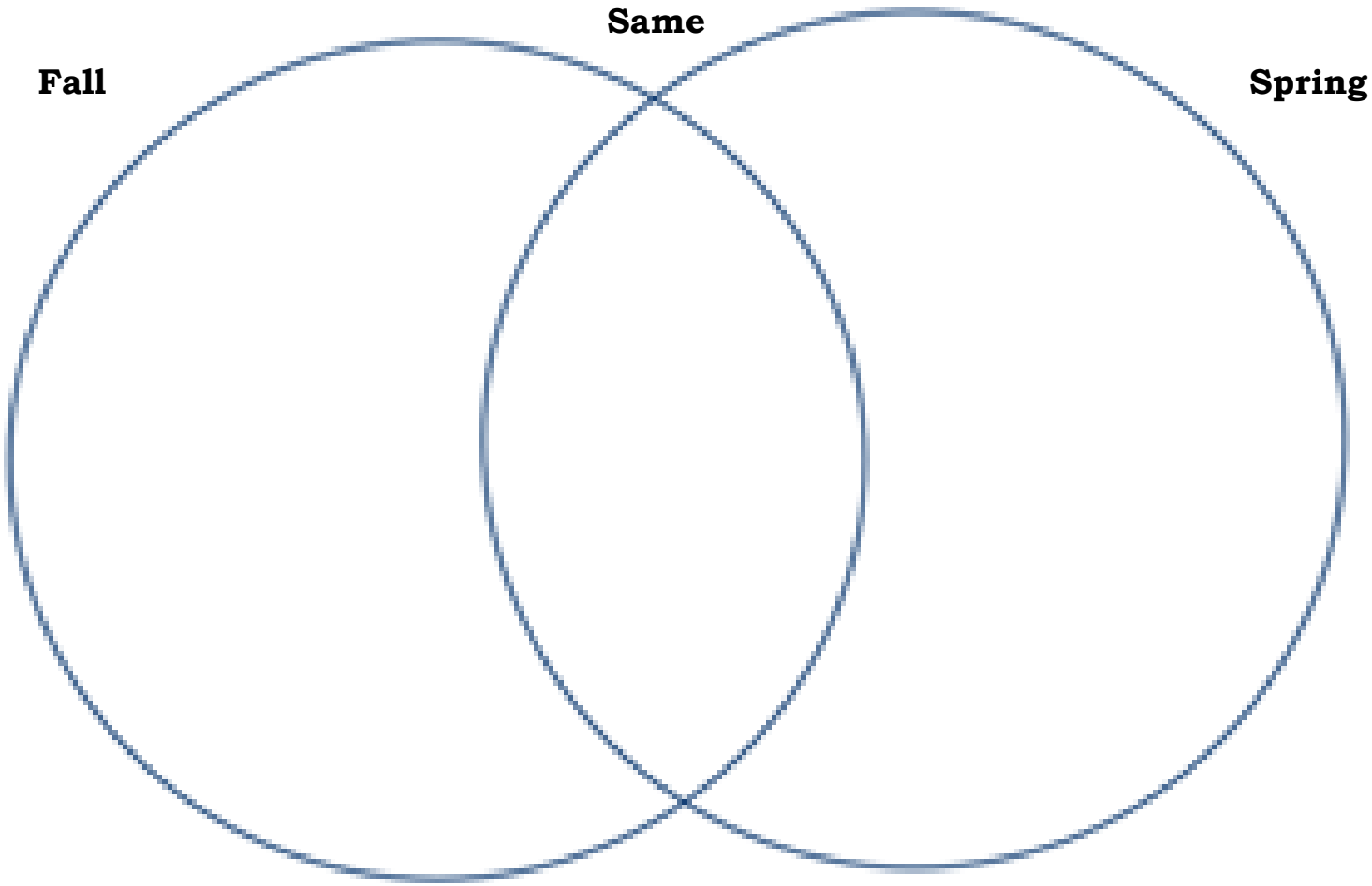
Date: _____

How has your tree **changed**?

How has your tree **stayed the same**?

Venn Diagram

Compare and contrast your tree during different visits. How is it the same? How is it different?



Visiting your tree

Date: _____

How has your tree **changed**?

How has your tree **stayed the same**?

Visiting your tree

Date: _____

How has your tree **changed**?

How has your tree **stayed the same**?

mndnr.gov/plt

mndnr.gov/schoolforest

This journal was designed to accompany Project Learning Tree (PLT) lessons #21 "Adopt-a-Tree," #45 Poet-Tree," #22 "Trees as Habitats," #67 "How Big is Your Tree?" and #68 "Name That Tree."