

Science Action – Kindergarten
Lab #3: Trees
Updated May 2016

Coordinator’s Notes: Advance Preparation

Order Seedlings:

- **Complete and submit School Seedlings Application before March 31st**
 - Be sure to order enough White Spruce seedlings for each Kindergarten student (order in groups of 50)
 - Delivery is usually next day, but the only ship Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
 - If lab is on a Monday or Tuesday, need shipping by Wednesday prior
 - Wednesday lab – ship on Monday
 - Thursday lab – ship on Monday or Tuesday
 - Friday lab – ship Tuesday or Wednesday
- Call the Tree Nursery with any questions: (518) 581-1439
- Notify Jeanne Byrnes, Martha Pradhan, and Rubie Times of the delivery date for the seedlings; ask them to call you when seedlings arrive

Prepare Lab Materials:

- Ask parent helpers to collect plastic grocery bags and bring to **training** (these will be used to send tree seedlings home with the students)
- Borrow Sharpie markers, masking tape, and a few large paper plates from Colors Lab bin (*be sure to return them after the Trees Lab!*)
- Follow PTSA operational guidelines to request copies of:
 - Planting Instructions
 - Planting My Tree coloring sheet
 - Leaf dot-to-dot sheet
 - Lab instructions for parent volunteers
- May have to purchase white copy paper; cut enough sheets in half to have one per student for leaf rubbings
- Need to purchase apples (1 per class); may need to purchase plastic knives
- Prepare materials for the four lab stations:

1. Parts of the Tree
 - a. Plastic bags
 - b. Sharpie markers
 - c. Masking Tape
 - d. Planting Instructions (separate copies by number of students per class)
 - e. Tree Seedlings
2. Mystery Bags
 - a. 4 bags filled with various items
3. Seed Dispersal

- a. Ziptop bags with Pine cones/plates/rice
 - b. Coconut, bucket, water
 - c. Apples, large plates, plastic knives
 - d. Maple “helicopter” seeds & bowl of sugar (pretend it’s sand during activity)
4. Leaf Rubbings
- a. Leaf plates and crayons
 - b. Paper (copy paper, cut in half)
 - c. Leaf Fandexes
 - d. Leaf sample
 - e. Planting My Tree & dot-to-dot sheets (separate copies by number of students per class)

When tree seedlings arrive, you may want to separate the seedlings into the plastic grocery bags that the parent volunteers brought to training.

- *Time:* One volunteer will need about 2 hours to separate 150 seedlings
- *Materials needed:* plastic bags (one per student, plus extras), spray bottle filled with water (NOTE: This is not in the supply bin), scissors
- Seedling box contains sealed paper bags with 50 seedlings each; you will need scissors to open the bags
- Remove a bundle of seedlings and gently separate seedlings; the roots will be entwined – carefully untangle them
- One seedling per plastic bag; you may wish to group the bags of seedlings into groups by class size and place these in another plastic bag labeled by class
- Spray roots with water; spray directly into the individual bag
- NOTE: If you can do this outdoors, that is best as it is a messy process

You will need at least 4 (but no more than 8) volunteers for the Trees Lab. This lab will be run in four stations – parent volunteers will remain at one station for the entire lab; students will rotate through each station:

Intro (full group) – 3 minutes
 (2 minutes/Split into groups)
 Activity 1 – 8 minutes
 (1 minute/switch)
 Activity 2 – 8 minutes
 (1 minute/switch)
 Activity 3 - 8 minutes
 (1 minute/switch)
Activity 4 – 8 minutes
40 Minutes Total