



# Picture a Tree

Name:

Before your next nature walk or outdoor adventure, close their eyes and picture a tree. Think about its shape, branch arrangement, and trunk and leaf texture. Now draw a picture of a tree from memory. Next, head outside with a camera or sketchbook to have a closer look. On your walk, locate several different tree species you can observe.

Ask:

What is the shape of the trunk? Tall, straight, bent, or gnarled? Is there one trunk or does it split into multiple trunks?

What color is the bark? How does it feel? How does it look?

What shape are the branches and twigs?

Are there any seeds, flowers, fruits, nuts, or cones on the tree?

What color and shape are the leaves or needles?

Where are they located on the tree?

What is the overall shape of the tree crown?

While outside, consider taking photographs or making sketches to record your observation data. Once your observations are complete, have students draw a second tree picture. Compare and contrast the two drawings. What new details appeared in the second drawing? What characteristics were similar? Use this Sample Graphic Organizer chart to assist with your comparison.

STRUCTURE	TREE FROM MEMORY	TREE FROM OBSERVATION
Trunk shape		
Bark colour, texture, look		
Branches - shape, pattern, texture		
Leaves - shape, texture, colour		
Leaf attachment		
Seed, fruit, flowers, nuts or cones		
Shape of the tree		
Plants or animals on the tree		

Over the next few weeks our trees will change. Spring will see the new buds, new leaves, blossom on our fruit trees and many different insects and animals coming to visit.

What can you see and hear when you stand under a tree? Look up

Describe how it makes you feel when you stand quietly with your eyes closed and your ears open.