

Trees Unit

Book, Video, Internet Resource

Suggestions



*The number following the author's name is how many copies are in the JMRL Library system. Have fun!
step-up readers followed by more in-depth reading:*

1. **Tell Me, Tree** by Gail Gibbons (8)
Trees shelter and surround us. Their leaves offer shade from the hot summer sun. This guide to the wide variety of trees in the world is very colorful and interesting. A very good introduction to the world of trees.
2. **Why Do Leaves Change Color?** by Betsy Maestro(9)
This is a short, level two reader that goes through the process of leaves turning color and the author tells what causes this to happen. Great introductory book to trees.
3. **A Tree is Growing** by Arthur Dorros(10)
Follow an oak tree through the seasons, from the unfolding of new buds in the spring to the dropping of colorful leaves in the fall. Beautiful illustrations with interesting text. Excellent choice.
4. **Outside and Inside Trees** by Sandra Markle(9)
Brilliant full-color photographs offer close-up views of every part of a tree. Excellent reading and pictures!
5. **One Small Place in a Tree** by Barbara Brenner(7)
A bear sharpens her claws on a tree trunk. The scratched bark chips; a tiny hole forms. Timber beetles tunnel inside. The hole grows bigger and bigger. Incredible pictures and reading give an interesting explanation of the development of a hole in a tree and what comes to live inside. This is a great find!
6. **Starting with Nature, Tree** by Pamella Hickman(1)
Find out how to identify a tree, why evergreens stay green, what trees grow in what parts of the U.S., what trees do for people and animals, who lives in trees. Activities instructions are included for making a leaf collection, growing your own tree, finding the hidden colors in green leaves, and helping America's endangered trees. Excellent reading and pictures. The activity ideas are great! Don't miss this one!
7. **Leaves and Trees, nature close-up** by Elaine Pascoe(1)
Have you ever wanted to know what lies beneath a tree's bark? Have you ever wondered why the leaves on some trees change colors and fall off every autumn? This title includes the answers to these and many other questions. Also included are some great activity ideas. Great find!
8. **Ancient Ones** by Barbara Bash(3)
In lyrical prose and vivid watercolor paintings, the life cycle not only of the Douglas fir but of the forest itself. Beautiful paintings and interesting information. Highly recommended!
9. **Crinkleroot's Guide to Knowing the Trees** by Jim Arnosky(7)
A very colorful book and interesting text. Crinkleroot is walking in the forest. He tells you how to identify trees and what saplings and seedlings are. He shows what the importance of trees are to birds and other forest animals. The method this author uses to tell the story of trees through Crinkleroot makes it quite interesting. Highly recommended!
10. **Be a Friend to Trees** by Patricia Lauber(2)
With lively text and colorful illustrations the reader will learn about our great resource of trees! Great!
11. **Redwoods are the Tallest Trees in the World** by David A. Adler(2)
This is a let's-read-and-find-out science book. In the forests of California and Oregon stand the tallest trees in the world. Read on to find out more!
12. **Tree Flowers** by Millicent E. Selsam(2)
Beautiful water-color pictures of the flowers of trees along with interesting text.
13. **Apples to Oregon** by Deborah Hopkinson & Nancy Carpenter(7)
A delightful tall tale about a family that takes apples to Oregon in a wagon. Although this title is fiction, a pioneer named Luelling left Salem, Iowa with his wife and 8 children and a wagon carrying 700 plants and young fruit trees! This title is included 'just for fun'. Exciting text and beautiful illustrations. Great!
14. **A Log's Life** by Wendy Pfeffer(2)
Lightning strikes and a giant oak tree crashes to the ground. Many insects, mammals and other critters move into the log. The rotting log becomes a rich layer of black earth, under which a new acorn lies. Beautiful illustrations and interesting text tell of the end of life for one tree and the beginning of another. Short text with beautiful illustrations.

15. Trees by Martyn Hamer(2)
An easy-to-read fact book. Included are the following chapters: parts of a tree, a look inside the trunk, roots and branches, leaves, flowers and fruit, sowing the seed, seedlings, life in a tree, how old is it, forestry, fire, the wonder of wood, and a glossary. Very excellent information with helpful pictures. This title contains the 'facts' about trees. A great resource to learn about trees in an easy-to-read format!
16. The Leaf Book by Anne Orange(1)
Simple text and leaf rubbings of twelve trees. Simple text and illustrations.
17. The Tree by Gallimard Jeunesse & Pascale de Bourgoing(7)
This is a Scholastic, A First Discovery Book, Beautifully put together with see-through pages that overlap to show much about trees. Great pictures! Highly recommend.
18. Look at Trees by Rena K. Kirkpatrick(3)
Very interesting text with illustrations that complement the information. Parts of a tree are shown and some activity ideas included. Great!
19. A Tree's Tale by Lark Carrier(4)
"With its crown pointing inland it became a guidepost to the west. And it was named Mai-Mehtug, meaning 'path-tree'. A fun story of what a tree 'sees' during its lifetime.
20. The Tremendous Tree Book by Barbara Brenner and May Garelick(7)
Colorful illustrations and simple text. Great information including leaves, food, things that come from trees & much more. (Parental caution: there is one evolutionary reference to the age of trees in tree history info.)
21. Springtime Tree Seeds by Helen Ross Russell (2)
Follow a class of students as they discover parts of a tree. Simple drawings and text.
22. John Chapman, The Man who was Johnny Appleseed by Carol Greene(1)
'A Rookie Biography'. Before I read this book about Johnny Appleseed, I didn't know that he believed in God! The most exciting part of this information about him was how he would read the Bible to the settlers as well as sharing the apple trees that he planted! How exciting. This book comes highly recommended. Easy to read, great pictures, interesting information!
23. What is a tree? by Jenifer W. Day(4)
A child's golden science book. Easy to read, nice illustrations and full of information.

In depth

24. Ultimate Field Trip 1, Adventures in the Amazon Rain Forest by Susan E. Goodman(2)
An interesting adventure unfolds as the reader follows a group of students on their amazing field trip to the Amazonian Rain Forest. Interesting information about the trees and animals found in the rain forest. Feel free to skip around and read chapter 5 on the jungle canopy. Wouldn't it be fun to try out the canopy walkway? Then, slide down the rope to the forest floor! Life in the canopy on p20-21 and pressures on the rain forest p25 are also good sections to read for our tree studies. Enjoy!
25. Vanishing Rain Forests by Paula Hogan(2)
This title is a guide to environmental issues. Learn about life in the rain forest and dangers that there are to their survival. Chapters include information on why tropical rain forests are vanishing, when rain forests die, saving rain forests and using them wisely, and much more. Very interesting.
26. State Trees by Olive L. Earle(1)
Most states have chosen a favorite tree. Often this choice is decided by school children. This title has a copyright date of 1973, so there may be some changes since then. At the time of publication, there were 38 state trees. It would be interesting to see if there are any additions since this title was published. Full of interesting information on states and their state tree.
27. Temperate Forests by Lynn M. Stone(1)
More in-depth text covering the forest, types of forests, making of the forest, plants of the forest, animals of the forest, the flow of energy, conservation of the forest.
28. Sugaring Time by Kathryn Lasky(7)
In New England, there is a time between winter and spring when the combination of freezing nights and warm days starts sap flowing in the maple trees. The author and illustrator follow the Lacey family in central Vermont as they use their magnificent Belgian horses to break a path through the snow to the maple tree stand. Their children are involved and a tasty treat results from their hard work! Very interesting to learn about collecting maple sugar.
29. Tree Products by Irving and Ruth Adler, In-depth reading about the products that come from trees.(1)
30. The Blossom on the Bough, a book of trees by Anne Ophelia Dowden(2)
A more in-depth look at the blossoms on trees. Illustrations are by the author.

Reference:

31. A Golden Guide, Trees by Herbert S. Zim, and Alexander C. Martin(8)
A full-color, easy-to-use guide to trees. It would be very helpful for students to purchase or borrow a tree guide for our tree studies! This is a good beginning guide.
32. National Audubon Society, First Field Guide, Trees by Brian Cassie(10)
Great information and pictures of each tree shown.

33. **Science Project Ideas About Trees** by Robert Gardner(3)

For the student who would like to study further about trees---many experiment ideas included.

Video suggestions—please note that #1-4 below are also included in the ecology unit video list:

1. **Biomes of the World in Action: Rainforests** by Schlessinger Media (4)
Students will learn what factors make up a rainforest including much rain, and a canopy of evergreen trees. (please note that there is one evolutionary statement about how the earth and continents were formed)
Excellent video, 23 minutes long.
2. **Biomes of the World in Action: Deciduous Forests** by Schlessinger Media (4)
Deciduous forests contain trees that shed their leaves and grow new ones each year. Annual rings and the story they tell, chlorophyll and how it gives color to leaves, and layers of the forest are some of the information given. Excellent video! (23 minutes long)
3. **Biomes of the World in Action: Coniferous Forests** by Schlessinger Media (4)
Coniferous forests are the largest biome. Biomes are named for the most dominant plant life that is found there. Coniferous forests contain cone-bearing evergreens. Climate, precipitation, and forest fires are some of the areas covered in this title. Excellent video! (23 minutes long)
4. **Ecosystems for Children, All About Forest Ecosystems** by Schlessinger Media (1)
An excellent video! This video is 23 minutes long. Kids will explore the ecosystems where trees are the major plant life form. Th three different types of forests found around the world (rainforests, deciduous forests and coniferous forests) and explore the plant and animal life found there. Excellent choice!
5. **Vrrrooommm 4 Citrus Farming for Kids** by Rainbow Communications (4)
There is excellent filming of orange trees being pruned with large farm machinery. Great filming of picking oranges, care of the trees, the processing plant, washing and packing oranges, and making orange juice. Beware that there are some small sections of small children eating oranges, singing songs about oranges, and some very clear observations are pointed out. Saying this, the other sections of this film make it a worthwhile choice.
6. **Eyewitness Tree** by BBC public broadcasting (2)
Interesting video on parts of a tree, different kinds and their survival. Parental caution: *There is one mention of evolutionary development of trees and some strange myths about trees from different cultures. These two areas are a small part of the video and could be explained to your child.

website suggestions:

1. <http://www.brainpop.com/>
If you have a paid subscription, or would like to try a two-week free trial on the brainpop website, try the following topics under science: autumn leaves, photosynthesis, plant growth, and tropical rain forest.
2. <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/Home.shtml>
under 'click below for great kid's pages' on rainforests. Very lively text and pictures will help students learn all about the rainforest.
3. <http://www.arboday.org/trees/ECTreeList.cfm>
online tree identification. click on the name of the tree and a black and white drawing will come up.
4. <http://www.arboday.org/trees/benefitsfullscreen.cfm>
interactive area on the arbor day website. Hover the mouse over the different trees to learn what the benefits are of having them there.
5. <http://www.arboday.org/programs/NationalTree/>
Did you know that the Oak is our national tree? Check it out!
6. <http://www.arboday.org/kids/teachingyouth.cfm>
a very fun interactive tree identification game. When the leaf appears on the screen, click on its name on the right-hand side of the screen. Very fun!
7. http://www.arboday.org/kids/carly/treerialpursuit/treerial_pursuit.cfm
a very fun interactive 'treerial pursuit' game. Very fun and includes great information!
8. <http://www.arboday.org/kids/carly/TREEllionaire/index.cfm>
a very fun interactive 'treellionaire' game. Very fun and includes great information!
9. <http://www.arbodayfarm.org/treehousetrail.cfm>
A fun tour of a treehouse trail at the arbor day foundation. Neat pictures!
10. http://forestry.about.com/library/treekey/bltree_key_id_start.htm
Look at a leaf and figure out what tree it came from! Tree identification key.
11. <http://www.ajkids.com/main/metaAnswer.asp?t=a&s=k&MetaEngine=Yahooligans%2521&en=ya&qid=CB5B0C096A47734584C8974D0FEA3CCB&frames=1&io=&pt=&eo=1&adcat=tech&ac=6&ask=trees&dt=&MetaURL=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.domtar.com%2Farbre%2Fenglish%2Fstart.htm&Image1.x=21&Image1.y=7> This website has much information on trees! What do trees look like during different seasons? Look at the list at the bottom right to choose some fun games to do.