



"Meet a Tree"

For homework this week, I would like you to go into your yard or neighborhood and meet a tree. You are going to be a scientist who observes and studies a tree to learn what special characteristics your tree has. Then you are going to draw and write about your tree so you can introduce it to others at class next week. Directions are below, and attached is a worksheet to record your observations on.

1. Pick a tree in your yard or neighborhood.

2. Make observations like a scientist - check it out!

Carefully use your eyes to study the whole tree, from the very top to the very bottom of it. Look for how tall or short your tree is, what kind of branches it has, whether it has needles or leaves, if anything is living in it, etc.

3. Look to see what its physical features are.

Does it have a smooth or a rough trunk? Are their leaves or needles? Does your tree have a large canopy or a pointy top? Do you see any flowers, nuts, pinecones or seedpods?

4. Document your observations like a scientist.

Scientists have to figure out ways to remember what they did and saw and to share their findings with other people. Here are some ways to document your findings on the worksheet.

- Identify your tree's name using the Virginia Tree Guidebook (sent home today)
- Make a bark rubbing.
- Make a leaf rubbing.
- Draw your tree
- Put leaves, needles, twig samples or seeds you may find in a Ziploc bag to bring to class. (optional)

5. Look up your tree in a tree book or online.

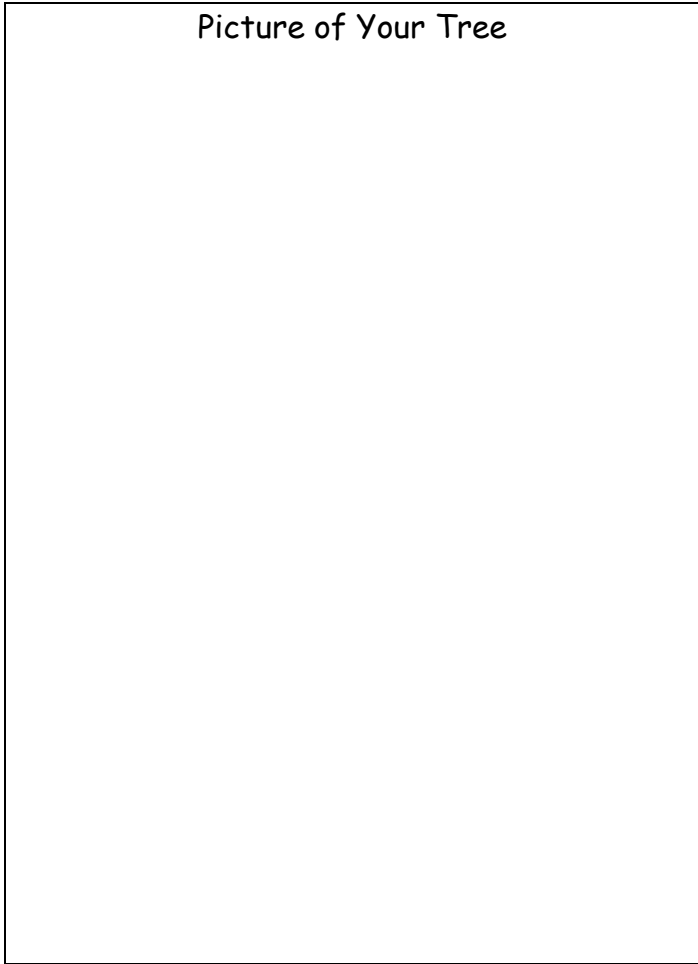
(<http://www.fw.vt.edu/dendro/dendrology/factsheets.cfm>) Try to find out two interesting facts about your tree. Write them on the worksheet.

Meet a Tree Worksheet

Name: _____

Common name of your tree: _____

Picture of Your Tree



Two interesting facts about my tree:

1. _____

2. _____

Leaf Rubbing



Bark Rubbing

