



MEASURE THE AGE OF A TREE

Grades K-8



ESTIMATE THE AGES OF TREES

K-8: Students learn how to estimate the age of a tree.

BUNÂ!

5 min

SNACK / FREEPLAY

30 min

STORY TIME

15 min

STEM TIME

50 min

Materials:

- Mezzie measuring tape
- String
- Calculator
- Worksheets

Bunâ is Romania for hello! (Pronounced Boo-na)

Greet your students. Be friendly. Use their name, ask a question, give a high five, or thumbs-up! Take roll. Mark down which students took a snack and tally the snacks given out.

Enjoy free play:

Students enjoy playing outside and eating their snacks.

Read the story:

Read to your students outside as they sit in a circle. Older students may choose to read their own books during this time.

Grades K-8: Measure the Age of a Tree

Say: "Have you ever looked at a tree and wondered how old it is? Well today we are going to find out! There are several ways to measure the age of a tree, and today we are going to talk about two of them."

K-8 Instructions:

1. Ask your class which tree on campus they think is the oldest and which they think is the youngest.
2. Have your students go outside, find a tree, and determine what kind of tree it is based on its leaves. Use the worksheet as a guide to find the type of tree and its "growth multiplier".

Ask: "Why is it important for us to know what type of tree we are measuring?"

Example: Different types of trees grow at different rates. Some trees grow faster, while some grow slower. When we use the leaves to identify the tree, we have a better idea of how old it is.

3. Measure how big the tree is around its trunk (in inches).

4. Calculate the age of the tree using the formula on the worksheet. Repeat with other trees. Try to make sure you measure the ages of the trees students thought were youngest and oldest so students can compare their estimates with their predictions.

Ask: "What are some ways that we can help trees to live as long a life as possible? How can we be kind to our environment?"

Example: Don't pick off all of their leaves, don't pick off the bark, make sure they are getting enough sunlight and water. Don't chop them down, plant more of them!



SPORTS / GAMES

25 min

*Older students may practice their sport if they don't want to play the game.

Materials:

- Ball or beanbag to pass around circle

HOMEWORK / FREE PLAY

20 min

CLEAN UP / DISMISSAL

5 min

Nature Alphabet

Students will go around the circle, and will name a plant, seed, or animal in alphabetical order.

Instructions- Instruct students to stand in a circle. Give the ball to a student in the circle. This student will begin the game. They can say the name of a plant, seed, or animal that starts with the letter "A." Then, they will then pass the ball to another student who must think of something that starts with a "B," and so on. If a student cannot think of something that starts with their letter, then they may do an exercise of the STEM coach's choice, such as run a lap around the outside of the circle, or do 10 jumping jacks. Students may play multiple rounds, and the STEM coach is welcome to switch up the topics.

Instructions:

Allow your students some homework time. If they need help let them know you can help them. If they do not have any homework they can have some reading time, or they can have free time to go outside and play.

Clean up/pack up/dismissal

Clean up, pack up and head home.