



Teacher Toolkit

Activity: Meet a Tree

Presented by: Great Parks of Hamilton County

Grade Level(s) 1st-5th grade



Activity Description

Learn about the different characteristics of trees and help students realize that they are as unique individuals as people!

Ohio Standards Met

- Science, Grade 1: Basic needs of living things
- Science, Grade 2: Interactions with habitats
- Science, Grade 3: Adaptations
- Science, Grade 5: Ecosystems

Instructions

- Find a location with a few different trees.
- Explain to students that there are many different kinds (species) of trees, and that each one is unique- just like people.
- Have students form pairs.
- One person from each pair will be given a blindfold. The second person gently turns them around three times and guides them carefully to a tree of their choice.
- The blind-folded person takes a few minutes to touch, smell and listen to the tree. Encourage them to reach high, feel the base and around the tree to try and learn and remember its unique characteristics.
- The partner then guides them back to an open spot and again turns them around three times. Remove the blindfold and ask them to find their tree.

Thanks to Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators (GCEE) for collecting activities for the Teacher Toolkit



Instructions (continued)

- Encourage the students to walk up to the trees to try and figure out their tree. The activity gives students the opportunity to use their senses to make observations and discern differences between the trees.
- Ask what made their tree different from the others around it. The students may discover mossy patches, burls, holes or leaves. All of which can lead to further discussion about the parts and structure of trees and their role in nature.

Materials Needed

- Blindfolds or bandanas

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