

Life of a Tree

Grade Levels: PreK–2

Program Description:

Trees are essential to forest ecosystems and the animals that live there. In this field trip, students will learn about tree anatomy and function while comparing trees to our own bodies. Students will have the opportunity to sharpen their observation skills as they explore life in and around a tree. Our forest exploration will reinforce tree life cycles, components of a forest ecosystem and seasonal changes.

Massachusetts Curriculum Standards:

Pre-K: Earth and Space Sciences

ESS2. Earth's Systems

PreK-ESS2-1(MA). Raise questions and engage in discussions about how different types of local environments (including water) provide homes for different kinds of living things.

Pre-K: Life Science

LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

PreK-LS1-1(MA). Compare, using descriptions and drawings, the external body parts of animals (including humans) and plants and explain functions of some of the observable body parts.

PreK-LS1-3(MA). Use their five senses in their exploration and play to gather information.

LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

PreK-LS2-2(MA). Using evidence from the local environment, explain how familiar plants and animals meet their needs where they live.

LS3. Variation of Traits

PreK-LS3-1(MA). Use observations to explain that young plants and animals are like but not exactly like their parents.

Kindergarten: Life Science

LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

K-LS1-1. Observe and communicate that animals (including humans) and plants need food, water, and air to survive. Animals get food from plants or other animals. Plants make their own food and need light to live and grow.

K-LS1-2(MA). Recognize that all plants and animals grow and change over time.



Hitchcock Center
EDUCATION FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

Grade 1: Life Science

LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

1-LS1-1. Use evidence to explain that (a) different animals use their body parts and senses in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water, and air, and (b) plants have roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruits that are used to take in water, air, and other nutrients, and produce food for the plant.

LS3. Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits

1-LS3-1. Use information from observations (first-hand and from media) to identify similarities and differences among individual plants or animals of the same kind.

Grade 2: Life Science

LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

2-LS2-3(MA). Develop and use models to compare how plants and animals depend on their surroundings and other living things to meet their needs in the places they live.

LS4. Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

2-LS4-1. Use texts, media, or local environments to observe and compare (a) different kinds of living things in an area, and (b) differences in the kinds of living things living in different types of areas.



Hitchcock Center
EDUCATION FOR A HEALTHY PLANET