

Name _____ Date _____

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 1: Observing Trees

Read this aloud with your child before doing the activity together.

Think of a place near your home where there are trees. This should be a place where there are not too many trees to count. Your street, block, yard, or a neighborhood park might be good choices.

Activity

1. Without looking, guess how many trees there are in the place you chose. Ask everyone in your family to guess the number of trees.

_____ thinks there are _____ trees.

_____ thinks there are _____ trees.

_____ thinks there are _____ trees.

_____ thinks there are _____ trees.

2. Go outdoors together, and count the trees. Look at the kinds of trees you find. Compare bark, leaves, and the shapes of the trees. Answer these questions.

- *How many trees did you find?*
- *How many different kinds of leaves did you find?*
- *What kinds of animals did you find living in the trees?*
- *What did you find around the trees?*

3. Record what you saw.

We counted _____ trees.

We found _____

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 2: Observing Leaves

Is This My Leaf?

Play this game with two or more players—the more the merrier.

Materials

- 8–12 Leaves that have fallen from the same kind of tree
- 1 Box or bag to hold the leaves

Activity

Collect a batch of leaves that have fallen from one tree. Take them to a table to play a leaf-identification activity.

1. Spread your leaves on a table.
2. Each player chooses one leaf and studies it carefully for a minute or two.
3. Everyone returns his or her leaf to the bag.
4. Mix up the leaves gently and spread them out again.
5. Try to find your leaf as quickly as possible.

Compare leaves with the other players. Discover what makes your leaf different from all the other leaves. Is it the smallest? Is it the biggest? Does it have a special spot or mark on it? Does it have an unusual edge or shape?

When all players are sure they know how their leaf differs from all the others, return the leaves to the bag and let everyone draw a new leaf. Repeat the activity.

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 3: Observing Weather

Wind Chimes

Materials

- Large cup, paper or plastic
- Paper clip
- String
- Metal objects of various kinds *

Activity

1. Poke a hole in the middle of the cup's bottom.
2. Pass a string through the hole. Tie a paper clip to the middle of the string so when the string is pulled up, the paper clip will hit the inside bottom of the cup and secure the string. A length of string will remain trailing down.
3. Use string to attach metal washers, discarded flatware, bolts or machine screws, jar lids, and so on to the center string and to strings attached to the lip of the cup. The hanging objects should all hang at about the same distance so they can hit each other in the wind.
4. Hang the wind chime outdoors to clatter and ring in the breeze.

* **SAFETY NOTE:** Avoid using any sharp or dangerous items.

