



Merry Lea

*Environmental Learning Center
of Goshen College*

Trees are Terrific!

3rd - 5th

Program Description

The marvelous world of trees is diverse in function, characteristics and uses. Students explore trees' anatomy and physiology, life cycles, identifications and roles within different ecosystems. Examine leaves, seeds, buds and more as students hike among the trees, compare and contrast living tree examples, and participate in trail-based activities designed to spark curiosity and learning - all about trees!

Program Objectives

Students will:

- Discover there is great diversity among trees
- Learn that trees are living things and need nutrients, water, air, sunlight and space to grow
- Learn how to recognize different kinds of trees by carefully observing their characteristics

Program Outline

1. Hike

Students head out on our trails to get a close-up view of the characteristics and diversity of trees at Merry Lea. They participate in age-appropriate scavenger hunts, games and other hands-on activities.

2. The afternoon is filled with a variety of age-appropriate activities building on the concepts explored in the hike.

Options include:

- Build a Tree: Students engage and act like various parts of a tree, learning how to work together to help the tree grow and stay protected
- Leaf Rubbings: Students use crayons, paper and a variety of leaves to make leaf rubbing art
- An introduction to Northern watersnakes

Vocabulary

- Living
- Non-living
- Habitat
- Seeds
- Buds
- Evergreen
- Deciduous

Quick Facts

Season	Fall: September - November Spring: April - May
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Grades	3rd - 5th
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Program Length	4 hours
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Maximum # of Students	80 Students
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Standards Correlations

3.LS.2 Plan and conduct an investigation to determine the basic needs of plants to grow, develop, and reproduce.

3.LS.3 Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

4.ESS.4 Develop solutions that could be implemented to reduce the impact of humans on the natural environment and the natural environment on humans.

5.LS.2 Observe and classify common Indiana organisms as producers, consumers, decomposers, or predator and prey based on their relationships and interactions with other organisms in their ecosystem.

See Standards Correlations for Trees are Terrific! for more academic connections.