



Seasonal Tree Study Lessons

Websites

[One... Two... Three... Grow!](#)

Can you beat the clock and match-up the animal life stages before your time runs out? In this game children move three small pictures to make a big, whole picture. The big picture shows an animal at a different stage in its life, from a little baby to a fully grown adult.

(<http://www.arkive.org/education/games/one-two-three-grow>)

[Cycles of Life](#)

Children can click and drag pictures into the correct order of their lifecycles using this interactive website.

(http://teams.lacoe.edu/documentation/classrooms/judi/life/activities/cycles/life_cycles.html)

[KidsKonnnect.com – Life Cycles](#)

This website offers background information on life cycles as well as links to various life cycle resources.

(<http://www.kidskonnnect.com/subject-index/15-science/87-life-cycles.html>)

[ARKive Education](#)

ARKive's free fun-packed teaching resources cover a range of key science and biology subjects including: adaptation, food chains, Darwin and natural selection, classification, identification, conservation and biodiversity.

(<http://www.arkive.org/education/resources>)

[Arbor Day](#)

This National Arbor Day Foundation web site contains an online guide for tree identification, as well as a variety of tree-based activities for kids.

(<http://www.arborday.org/>)

[Big Tree Facts](#)

American Forests has been keeping the National Register of Big Trees since 1940. One link on this page will take you to the current register. Other links lead to pages about how to measure a big tree, big tree trivia, and where to find the big trees in your own state.

(<http://www.americanforests.org/our-programs/bigtree/>)



[The Ancient Bristlecone Pine](#)

Using a tree borer and counting the rings, scientists have shown that a bristlecone pine tree named “Methuselah” is more than 4,700 years old—the oldest living organism known on earth. This site explains how scientists study the tree ring patterns in old bristlecone pines to learn about past climates and to date archeological sites.
(<http://www.sonic.net/bristlecone/>)

[EPA Superfund Classroom Activities](#)

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has a website with activities for classes. A winter activity entitled “Dress Up a Twig” teaches students the structure and function of the parts of a winter twig, and how twigs can be used to identify trees.
(http://www.epa.gov/superfund/students/clas_act/winter/dressup.htm)

[What Tree Is It?](#)

An easy to use site that lets you identify trees by several different criteria.
(<http://www.oplin.org/tree/>)



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Books

Life Cycles: General

If My Mom Were a Platypus: Animal Babies and Their Mothers

By Dia L. Michels; illustrated by Andrew Barthelmes. (2005, Platypus Media)

With one chapter devoted to each of 14 different mammals, this book tells about how each featured species is born, eats, grows, learns, and matures. Each chapter is told from the point of view of the baby mammal and is filled with fascinating facts.

Life Cycles of a Dozen Diverse Creatures

By Paul Fleisher. (1998, Millbrook Press)

Compares and contrasts the life cycles of twelve animals, including the opossum, bullfrog, and jellyfish. This book might be too advanced for some second graders to read by themselves, but works well when read aloud to the class.

Lifetimes

By David L. Rice; illustrated by Michael S. Maydak. (1997, Dawn Publications)

Introduces some of nature's longest, shortest, and most unusual life cycles.

What Is a Life Cycle? (Science of Living Things)

By Bobby Kalman and Jacqueline Langille. (1998, Crabtree)

Introduces the life cycles of plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, mammals, and humans, and discusses their birth, growth, parental care, and reproduction.



Trees

Be a Friend to Trees (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science)

By Patricia Lauber; illustrated by Holly Keller. (1994, HarperCollins)

Through simple language and illustrations, this book discusses the importance of trees as sources of food, shelter, products, and conservers of soil. Explains the process of photosynthesis—how trees make food in their leaves and release the oxygen we breathe—step by step.

A Log's Life

By Wendy Pfeffer, illustrated by Robin Brickman. (2007, Aladdin)

Winner of the 2000 Giverny Award for best children's science picture book, this book tells the story of a decaying log, from the time lightning strikes the tree to the time the log turns into a mound of rich black earth. Children have the opportunity to watch the life cycle of a tree unfold. Lyrical text is complemented by full color, paper-sculpture, and photo illustrations.

Plants in Winter (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science)

By Joanna Cole; illustrated by Kazue Mizumura. (1973, Thomas Crowell Company)

Written by the author of the Magic School Bus books, this book gives a clear and concise explanation of how different types of plants cope with winter.

The Seasons of Arnold's Apple Tree

By Gail Gibbons. (1988, Sandpiper)

A playful story reinforcing the changes that occur in an apple tree throughout the seasons. Arnold enjoys his apple tree in the spring (buds and blossoms); the summer (sheltering leaves); the fall (tasty apples), and the winter (its bare branches hold strings of popcorn and berries for the birds). Full-color illustrations.

The Story of Johnny Appleseed

By Aliko. (1971, Aladdin Library)

Classic American tale of how apple trees were spread across the frontier by one simple and peaceful man who became a model of patriotism and good will. The oil pastel illustrations are well matched to the text and, like many books of its day, alternate between color and black-and-white illustrations. A great introduction to the genre of tall tales.



Sugarbush Spring

By Marsha Wilson Chall, illustrated by Jim Daly. (2000, HarperCollins)

Recounts memories of a family's tradition of tapping maple syrup. Lively writing and crisp, colorful illustrations add to this story of how trees make and store sap in the winter.

Tell Me, Tree: All About Trees for Kids

By Gail Gibbons. (2002, Little Brown and Co.)

This guide describes a wide variety of trees and how to identify them, and presents the many parts of a tree, inside and outside, with cutaway illustrations and labels. Also includes an explanation of photosynthesis and a special section on how to make a tree identification book of your own.

Trees (Cycle of Life Series)

By Andres Llamas Ruiz; illustrated by Francisco Arredondo. (1997, Sterling Publications)

Part of a series designed to teach children about natural life cycles. Focuses on trees as living organisms that are born, eat, breathe, grow, and reproduce. Includes some descriptions of tree structure.