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## Trees: Kindergarten Science Unit

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**Note:** This unit focuses on observing trees as part of the living things that make up their world.

### Non-Fiction Books

Brenner, Barbara. ***One Small Place in a Tree*** (Harper Collins, 2004)

A child visitor observes as one tiny scratch in a tree develops into a home for a variety of woodland animals over many years, even after the tree has fallen.

(SLJ, Booklist, Kirkus, Wilson's)

Chin, Jason. ***Redwoods*** (Flashpoint, 2009)

While reading a book about redwood trees on the subway, a young boy travels as he learns, all the way to the forests of California.

(Booklist \*, Horn Book \*, SLJ, Wilson's)

### Fiction Books

Brallier, Jes M. ***Tess's Tree*** (Harper, 2009)

When nine-year-old Tess invites her friends, family, and neighbors to celebrate her beloved maple tree's life before it must be cut down, she learns that it has meant a lot to other people, as well.

(Kirkus, SLJ)

DePalma, Mary Newell. ***A Grand Old Tree*** (A. A. Levine, 2005)

A grand old tree grows, flowers, bears fruit, sows seeds, and dies, providing shelter and food for the animals and the Earth at each stage of its life.

(Booklist, Horn Book, Kirkus, SLJ, Wilson's)

Fleischman, Paul. ***The Birthday Tree*** (Candlewick, 2007)

A sailor and his wife, having lost three sons to the sea, plant an apple tree in honor of the birth of their fourth son, Jack, that seems to reflect his ups and downs, and when Jack too heads out to sea, his parents trust the tree to keep them informed of his welfare.

(Booklist, Horn Book, SLJ, Wilson's)

Gerber, Carole. ***Leaf Jumpers*** (Charlesbridge, 2004)

Illustrations and rhyming text describe different leaves and the trees from which they fall.

(Booklist, Horn Book, SLJ, Wilson's)

Hopkinson, Deborah. ***Apples to Oregon : being the (slightly) true narrative of how a brave pioneer father brought apples, peaches, pears, plums, grapes, and cherries (and children) across the plains*** (Atheneum Books, 2004)

A pioneer father transports his beloved fruit trees and his family to Oregon in the mid-nineteenth century. Based loosely on the life of Henderson Luelling.

(Booklist, Kirkus\*, SLJ\*, Wilson's)

McPhail, David. ***The Searcher and Old Tree*** (Charlesbridge, 2008)

A raccoon forages for food at night and at dawn returns to its home in a strong, old tree, which safely shelters the raccoon through wild winds and ferocious rain so that it can go out searching for food again.

(Booklist, Horn Book, Kirkus, SLJ\*, Wilson's)

Oldland, Nicholas. ***Big bear hug***. (Kids Can, 2009)

a big bear who loves to hug everything until he meets a human who is about to chop down a tree and must make a decision on how to save his forest.

(Kirkus, SLJ)

Rawlinson, Julia. ***Fletcher and the falling leaves*** (Greenwillow, 2006)

When his favorite tree begins to lose its leaves, Fletcher the fox worries that it is sick, but instead a magical sight is in store for him.

(Booklist, Kirkus, SLJ\*, Wilson's)

Thompson, Lauren. ***The Apple Pie that Papa Baked*** (Simon & Schuster, 2007)

A father makes his daughter an apple pie and all of the farm animals want a taste.

(Booklist \*, Horn Book\*, Kirkus \*, SLJ, Wilson's)

Ward, Jennifer. ***The busy tree***. (Marshall Cavendish, 2009)

Many different types of wildlife live in and around a tree that is their home, from chipmunks and woodpeckers to ants and spiders.

(Booklist, Kirkus, SLJ)

## Videos

***A first look at trees*** (AIMS Multimedia, 1991). Discovery Education, 11:54)

Trees are the largest, tallest, and oldest of all living things on Earth. This introductory video describes the that all trees have in common as well as explains why trees are such an important part of our lives.

***Life cycle of an apple tree*** (100% Educational Videos, 2002). Discovery Education, 1:52)

This video discusses the life cycle of an apple tree. Like the other fruits, the apple has its seeds inside the fruit.

***Tonia the Tree***. (MarshMedia. 1988. Discovery Education, 11:41)

Confronts both the challenges and benefits to calculated risk-taking, recounting the story of a tree's special friendships and life-altering discoveries about growth and transition. Tonia, inspired by the migrating birds that rest in her branches, gathers courage and confidence and changes her attitudes about adventure and change. Her moving story about dreams and goals teaches important lessons in self-esteem and inner beauty.

## Websites

"Trees". *World Book Online (Kids)*. AEAOnline.

National Geographic Video: World's Tallest Tree. *Nettrekker*. GWAEOnline.

<http://www.earthkam.ucsd.edu/public/students/activities/landformations/river2.shtml>

Redwoods are the tallest trees on the planet, often reaching heights of 300 feet (91 meters). But that's nothing compared to "Hyperion," a recently discovered redwood in the park that stretches 70 feet (21 meters) farther toward the sky than the Statue of Liberty—and may be the world's tallest tree.

Urban Programs Resource Network: All About Trees *Nettrekker*. GWAEOnline.

A terrific animated site to help the younger student learn all about trees. Entertaining and educational!

Math/Science Nucleus: Trees Storybook Animation. *Nettrekker*. GWAEOnline.

This animation on trees is told in the form of a poem storybook, which covers the various functions of trees including purpose and life cycle. This site is would provide a great foundation for younger students or English Language Learners.