

Meet A Tree

Focus	To identify with a tree using the senses of touch, sight, hearing, and smell.
Group Size	Entire class (works best with groups of 20 or less)
Time Required	30 minutes
Materials	Blindfolds
Physical Setting	Relatively impacted wooded area that contains a variety of trees
Process	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ask the students to find a partner.2. Explain that one student from the pairs will be blindfolded. The other student will carefully and gently lead the blindfolded partner to a nearby tree.3. The seeing partner will then instruct the blindfolded partner to "meet the tree" by encouraging him or her to explore the tree as high and as low as possible, to hug it, smell it, knock on it etc. The blindfolded student should get to know the tree as well as possible using all senses but sight.4. The seeing partner will then lead the blindfolded partner back to the starting point where they can then remove the blindfold.5. The formerly blindfolded partner now tries to find his or her tree. *Hopefully the seeing partner has taken them in a circuitous route so that they can not walk directly to the tree.6. The roles are then switched and the game is played again.7. A discussion following the activity can lead many directions: senses, identification of trees, diversity among forest communities, etc...