

Trees and Me

In this activity students reflect on what trees mean to them. They record one word that they think of when they think of a tree. They share their words as a class, categorize them, and make a concept map.

Materials

- Journal
- Pencils/pens
- Butcher paper
- Marking pen

What You Do

1. Take students outside to the schoolyard.
2. Have them find a quiet place where they can look at a tree. If you don't have trees in your schoolyard, bring in photos of trees or have students do this activity as homework.
3. Ask each student to do a quick sketch of the tree and write down one word that she thinks of when she thinks of a tree. Give students about ten minutes to reflect and write.
4. Bring the group back together to share their thoughts. Record each word on the butcher paper.
5. Have students work in small groups to categorize the words. Invite students to share the categories with the class.
6. Use the categories and words to make a concept map.

Extension

Ask students to write a short essay about what trees mean to them. Younger students can dictate sentences.