



TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Young visitors can actually climb inside a giant leaf, like a very small bug, and experience the “magic” of photosynthesis... or slide down a leaf slide into a bin of colorful leaves. At “Dancing With Trees” children and adults can don costumes and see themselves in a forest scene as they soar over the forest like a bird, or sway gently like a tree in the breeze.



Dear Educator,

“Exploring Trees Inside and Out” Traveling Exhibit is a new interactive experience where fun and learning about trees and the natural environment connect. This Traveling Exhibit is designed to help children, educators and families discover nature through multiple perspectives and inspire them to get outdoors and develop personal connections with the natural world. Visitors to the Exhibit will be provided with an innovative visual-spatial experience designed largely for whole body, open-ended participation and to raise awareness and understanding of trees.

Many of the experiences correlate with National Education Standards, but the exhibit is not intended to be a driver of informational facts and statistics but rather an “experience” about trees that visitors will be able to transfer to the out-of-doors at home, at school, in the park or on a hike in the woods. It is hoped that a visit to a local park or green space be included as follow up to the exhibit.

A follow up activity can be found at <http://arborday.org/explore/activity.cfm>

See back side for “Exploring Trees Inside and Out” National Education Standards correlations and recommended book lists to read with your students before or after a visit to the exhibit.

These themes interweave through the exhibit:

I. Perspectives: Seeing Things Through Multiple Lenses: The exhibit contains pieces and parts of a tree -- in larger-than-life scale -- enabling one to take a walk through the inside of the tree trunk and through the veins of the leaves.

II. Sensations: Experiencing With All the Senses: An experience with changes in light makes one a part of the transformation that takes place during photosynthesis. In the “sensation” stations, touch the bark, notice scents, smell the cedar and the cinnamon. A blue screen activity allows more immersion--watch how different trees move on video, imitate their movement and see your own reflection; dress in camouflage and wear parts of the tree or soar over the forest like a bird. Crawl through a log and experience it as a habitat for other living things.

III. Trees as Community: Understand and appreciate trees for the role they play in our own “reality” as children build and create from wood.

“Exploring Trees Inside and Out”

Traveling Exhibit correlation to National Standards

Pre K-4 Standards Correlation

Science

- Characteristics of Organisms
- Life cycles of Organisms
- Organisms and their Environments

Social Studies

- People, Places and Environments

Math

- Understand measurable attributes of objects and the units, systems and process of measurement

Visual Arts

- Using knowledge of structure and function

Literacy Link - Suggested reading list

- *Leaf Man* by Lois Ehlert
- *Pie in the Sky* by Lois Ehlert
- *Everybody Needs a Rock* by Byrd Baylor
- *The Other Way to Listen* by Byrd Baylor
- *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein
- *Fall Leaves Fall!* by Zoe Hall
- *Round and Round and Round* by Tana Hoban
- *The Shape of Things* by Dayle Ann Dodds
- *Have You Seen Trees?* by Joanne Oppenheim
- *Counting on the Woods* by George Ella Lyon

Spending time outdoors is a profoundly needed influence on children today. Research shows that they benefit greatly from connecting with nature. And these benefits have a lasting impact, especially when positive outdoor experiences come at an early age.

To support educators, families and administrators with effective resources to help young children connect with nature, the Arbor Day Foundation and Dimensions Educational Research Foundation have developed the Nature Explore program. This comprehensive program is based on years of Dimensions’ research and field-testing, along with an understanding of what is developmentally appropriate for preschool and elementary age children. Each Nature Explore resource can be used alone or in concert to help children make closer connections to nature and develop a lifelong sense of wonder. Nature Explore Comprehensive Support to help connect children with nature includes:

- **Workshops for families, educators and landscape architects**
- **Nature Explore Club – for Families and for Educators**
- **Nature Explore Classroom**
- **Traveling Exhibit**
- **Learning with Nature Idea Book and other Resource Materials**

Exploring Trees Inside and Out Traveling Exhibit sponsored by
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To learn more, visit arborday.org.



A Collaborative Project of

