

# Arbor Day in the Classroom

**M**any of the ideas mentioned previously can be easily adapted in a classroom setting. Here are some ideas on how to incorporate trees into the classroom prior to your Arbor Day celebration.

## Science

- Study the ecosystem of one particular tree.
- Learn to identify trees in your community. Students can use a tree key or create their own. Take a nature walk and practice this new skill.
- Study the structure of a tree, how it functions, and what benefits a tree provides.

## Social Studies

- Learn about the history of Arbor Day.
- Study the importance of trees in different cultures.
- Correlate the history of the United States or your community to one tree's growth rings.

## Math

- Learn how to measure a tree's height, crown spread and diameter - For directions see "Community Tree Contest" at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org)
- Have younger children count the rings on a tree stump.
- Look for a pattern of numbers in nature.

## Art

- Participate in The National Arbor Day Foundation's National Poster Contest (fifth grade)
- Collect leaves, put tempera paint on them and make leaf prints.
- Do bark rubbings – have students trade rubbings and see if they can identify each other's tree.

## Physical Education

- Tree shapes often aid in tree identification. Have students pretend to be a certain type of tree... weeping willow, redwood, etc.

## English

- Write an Arbor Day poem or rap and perform it for the school.
- Have each student write a description of a tree found on the school grounds; then see if other students can find it using the description.
- Have students write letters to community tree planters, thanking them for their efforts.

## Home Economics

- Find out about spices and other foods and learn about the trees that produce them.

## Drama

- Put on a play recreating the history of Arbor Day. An Arbor Day play can be found at [arborday.org/arbordayplay](http://arborday.org/arbordayplay).

## Schoolwide Activities

- Play "Tree Jeopardy" or "Tree-vial Pursuit" and see which class or group of students can answer the most tree related questions. For ideas visit our web site at [arborday.org](http://arborday.org).
- Plant trees on the school grounds and learn how to maintain them.
- Participate in a community Arbor Day Celebration.

✓ *Atlanta fifth graders planted conservation trees as part of a program sponsored by the Outdoor Activity Center of Atlanta, Georgia. The trees were planted to help control soil erosion and to beautify the Harwell Heights Park. The park was chosen for the special planting because it had a barren hillside which was created when a new ballpark was built. The hillside was very steep and volunteers helped the children rappel down the hill on ropes to plant the trees.*