



## Trees in Our Urban Environment

**Grades:** 9th-12th

**Duration:** 80 minutes for instruction

**Description:** Becoming guardians of the urban forest: high school students explore answers to local and global environmental issues.

Touching on both local and global perspectives, 'Trees in Our Urban Environment' illustrates the profound interdependence between humans and trees. Climate changes, deforestation, and urbanization all affect individual tree species and the urban forest as a whole. Concepts of bio-diverse tree selection and the "Right Tree in the Right Place" illustrate the value of human roles in maintaining the urban forest. Examining their own campus trees, students explore their own ideas about ways to care for the urban forest.



**Objectives:**

- Students will discuss human impact on the environment, specifically to trees.
- Students will know that trees have adapted over time or gone extinct.
- Students will make observations and assess the health of a tree.

**Evaluation:**

- The teacher will be asked to fill out an evaluation to provide feedback on the lesson and to rate what they believe their students learned.

**Key Vocabulary:** Urban forest, Adaptation, Extinction, Species, Cultivar, Biodiversity, Monoculture

**Standards Addressed:**

Next Generation Science Standards	Common Core English Language Arts Standards
HS-LS2-6., HS-LS2-7., HS-LS4-5.	SL.HS.1.

**Outline:**

Activity	Time
Introductions	5 minutes
Environment and Trees: Adaptation and Extinction	15 minutes
Humans and Trees: Selection and Stewardship	15 minutes
Outdoor Activity: Tree Observation	30 minutes
Wrap-Up Discussion	15 minutes