

# PORTRAIT OF A TREE



Contact K-12 Environmental Educator Vanessa Wynn at [vanessa@canopy.org](mailto:vanessa@canopy.org) with questions regarding this lesson

## TOPIC

This lesson develops students' observation and reasoning skills through a "compare and contrast" activity involving plants and animals. They learn firsthand how scientists classify items into categories based on their similarities, while also acknowledging differences between them.

In the second part of this lesson, students observe and draw a tree, modeling specific tree parts (trunk, roots, branches, and leaves), as they discover why each is important for the tree.



Students should take approximately **45-60 minutes** to complete this lesson.

## NGSS

This lesson addresses the following K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade NGSS Specific Learning Outcome:

**K-2-ETS1-2. Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem.**

Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
[SEP-2] Developing and Using Models	ETS1 .B: Developing Possible Solutions	[CCC-6] Structure and Function

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEACHERS:

### DISTRIBUTE

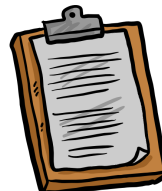
1. Print a front and back copy for each student of the PDF "Student Material" in tabloid paper (11x17). Fold them in half to form little booklets.
2. Distribute copies to your students in the next education packet that they pick up. Let them know that they will need the following materials to complete the lesson:



A pencil



Colored pencils



A hard surface on which to draw



Scissors

*If you prefer to distribute lesson material digitally, you can send students the student material PDF and ask that they do the drawings and respond to the questions in their notebooks. They will be able to do the entire lesson without the booklet, except for the surprise at the end of cutting and opening the circles.*

### EVALUATE

1. Either collect the finished booklets to grade yourself, or send the answer key to students digitally (after allowing enough time to complete the lesson) and ask their families to use it to grade their work.