

# PORTRAIT OF A TREE



## Lesson Overview



2nd GRADE



In-person: 60 mins.  
Virtual: 30 mins.

This lesson develops students' observation and reasoning skills through a "compare and contrast" activity involving plants. 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. The in-person lesson finishes with a surprise reveal!

**NGSS** This lesson addresses the following 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

## Post-lesson Activity

This activity challenges your students to take better care of trees and nature by picking a good habit to practice for one week. It also encourages their creativity by asking them to imagine and draw a picture of what they think their city would look like if everyone took good care of nature.

**State Standards** This activity addresses the following 2<sup>nd</sup> grade art standards:

**CA.1.3.** Analyze Art Elements and Principles of Design: Identify the elements of art in objects in nature, the environment, and works of art, emphasizing line, color, shape/form, texture, and space.

**CA.4.1.** Derive Meaning: Compare ideas expressed through their own works of art with ideas expressed in the work of others.