Have your students ever marveled at the sheer size of a 40 foot tall tree and wondered where it came from? What could have possibly created something so large? In this lesson students will learn the life cycle of trees and the stages of growth it takes to become a mature adult tree. Students will first develop an understanding for what tree parts appear during different stages of growth. Students will then explore how each of these parts are connected through a life cycle using story telling, artistic expression, and outdoor exploration.

This lesson addresses the following 3rd grade NGSS Specific Learning Outcome:

3-LS1-1. Develop models to describe that different organisms have unique and different life cycles but all have in common: birth, growth, reproduction, and death.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Science and Engineering Practices</th>
<th>Disciplinary Core Ideas</th>
<th>Crosscutting Concepts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop models to describe phenomena. (3-LS1-1)</td>
<td>LS1.B: Growth and Development of Organisms</td>
<td>Patterns of change can be used to make predictions. (3-LS1-1)</td>
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</table>

This activity addresses the following 3rd grade standards:

ELA/Literacy RI.3.3 Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

ELA/Literacy SL.3.4 Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

a. Plan and deliver an informative/explanatory presentation on a topic that organizes ideas around major points of information, follows a logical sequence, includes supporting details, uses clear and specific vocabulary, and provides a strong conclusion.

Arts 3.VA:Cr2.1 Create personally satisfying artwork using a variety of artistic processes and materials.