

*Teacher note: The following exercise is fun to do- after each student has completed the activity, mix up their written tree observations and then hand a tree description to each student. Based on the observation/description, see if student #2 can locate student #1's tree! (At first, ask that no names be put on the observation page. Write a number at the top of each description, as it comes in, and make a list of each student's name/number.)*

### Tree Observation Activity

1. Select a tree to observe.
2. Observe the tree from a distance; note its overall color, shape and size.
3. Walk over to the tree. Touch its bark, feel its leaves, note how its branches grow.
4. Describe the texture and color of the bark on the trunk.
5. Draw the pattern of the bark in a 4" by 4" area.
6. Measure the circumference of the tree using your foot steps (how many times do you have to place your feet heel to toe to move around the base of the tree?- convert this to inches/feet when you get back to the classroom and can measure your foot.)
7. Describe the color, shape, size of the leaves.
8. Describe how the branches grow out of the tree trunk- do they spiral around the trunk as they ascend?
9. How does the consistency of the trunk change from main trunk to new branch?
10. If you were to draw your tree, what colors would you need?
11. What unique features does your tree have? (scars, birds' nests, strangely shaped branches, etc.?)
12. Write a paragraph (or poem) that will help others "see" your tree. Use at least 2 similies if a paragraph.