NAME THAT TREE

LEARNING IS IN OUR NATURE

Nature is a great teacher and getting kids outside to learn and play is good for their brains and bodies. Try this outdoor activity from Project Learning Tree Canada (PLT Canada) – it's safe, fun, and educational!

Use your smart phone for a fun and educational way to identify trees and the products they give us!

- **Google Lens** – available for Android and iPhone
- **LeafSnap** – available only for iPhone
- **vTree** – available for Android and iPhone

Then, go outside and find an area with trees – it could be in your backyard, in a park, or along a street.

MAKE LEARNING FUN!

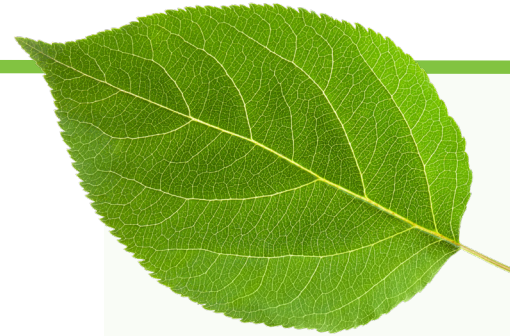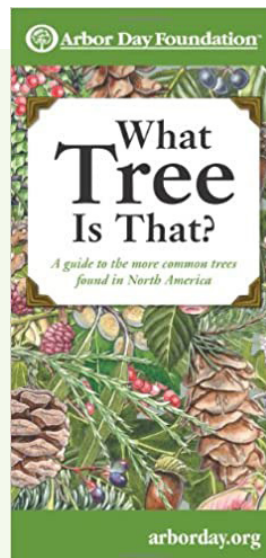For more activity ideas and materials:
Visit **pltcanada.org**.

CRITICAL THINKING

1. What differences do we notice when we compare different types of trees? (E.g. leaf type and shape, texture, twigs, fruit, flowers, etc.)
2. What kinds of products do we make from trees?
3. Why are some trees good for making things like paper, but we use other trees for things like furniture?

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LITERATURE CONNECTION

If you don't have a smartphone, use a free online tree identification site such as **Treebee.ca**. Or use a printed tree identification guide, for example:

What Tree Is That?
A Guide to the More
Common Trees Found in North America
ISBN: 9780963465757

Arbor Day Foundation
What Tree Is That?
A guide to the more common trees found in North America
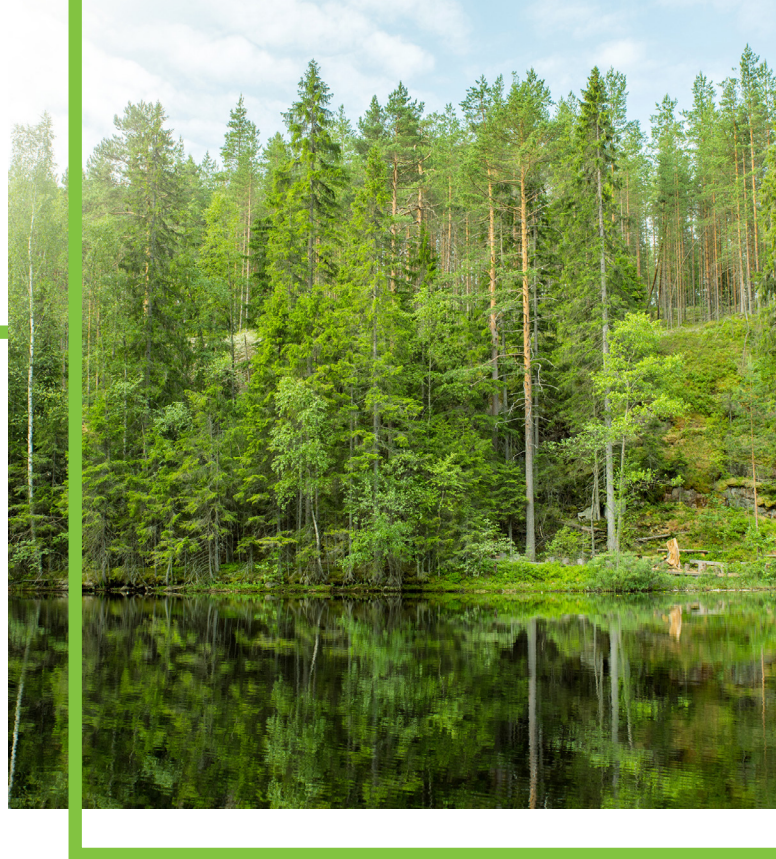arborday.org

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ACTIVITY

1. Go outside and choose three different types of trees to compare.

2. Write down as many characteristics as you can about each of the trees. Include information about leaves, bark, twig pattern, shape of tree, and any presence of fruit/nut or seed.

3. Open your selected app and find the common tree name using instructions below. Write in chart.

4. Search the Internet for the tree name, and include the keyword "common uses" (in quotation marks) to find products or benefits provided by these trees. For example, you might discover food products, medicinal products, wood products, or wood fibre products made possible by these trees!

TREE IDENTIFICATION CHART

Common Tree Name	Characteristics	Products & Benefits

App instructions:

Google Lens: Tap the screen when you want to take a photo of the item. Google Lens will then display one main result accompanied by a photo, and a couple more text suggestions. Tapping the item will take you to a Google search page of the item that you tapped.

LeafSnap: Snap a picture of a leaf using your smartphone. The app will provide a list of possible tree species with accompanying photos to help you select the best match.

vTree: Provide your location and answer a few questions about the tree you want to identify. The app will provide a list of possible tree species and accompanying photos to help you identify the tree.