

ADOPT-A-TREE



JOURNAL ALBUM

ADOPT-A-TREE JOURNAL ALBUM

**LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
OFFICE OF FORESTRY**

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1998

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1/98

Get ready.....

Trees are a very special part of our environment. They do a lot of good things for people and other living creatures. This project will help you get to know trees in a special way.

In the Adopt-A-Tree project* you will pick one tree you would like to get to know. By visiting your tree often, you will get to know it very well. Like a good friend, you will help it when it is in trouble. You can even share secrets with it--a tree is a good listener and never tells!

Get set.....

In order to do this project, you will need to

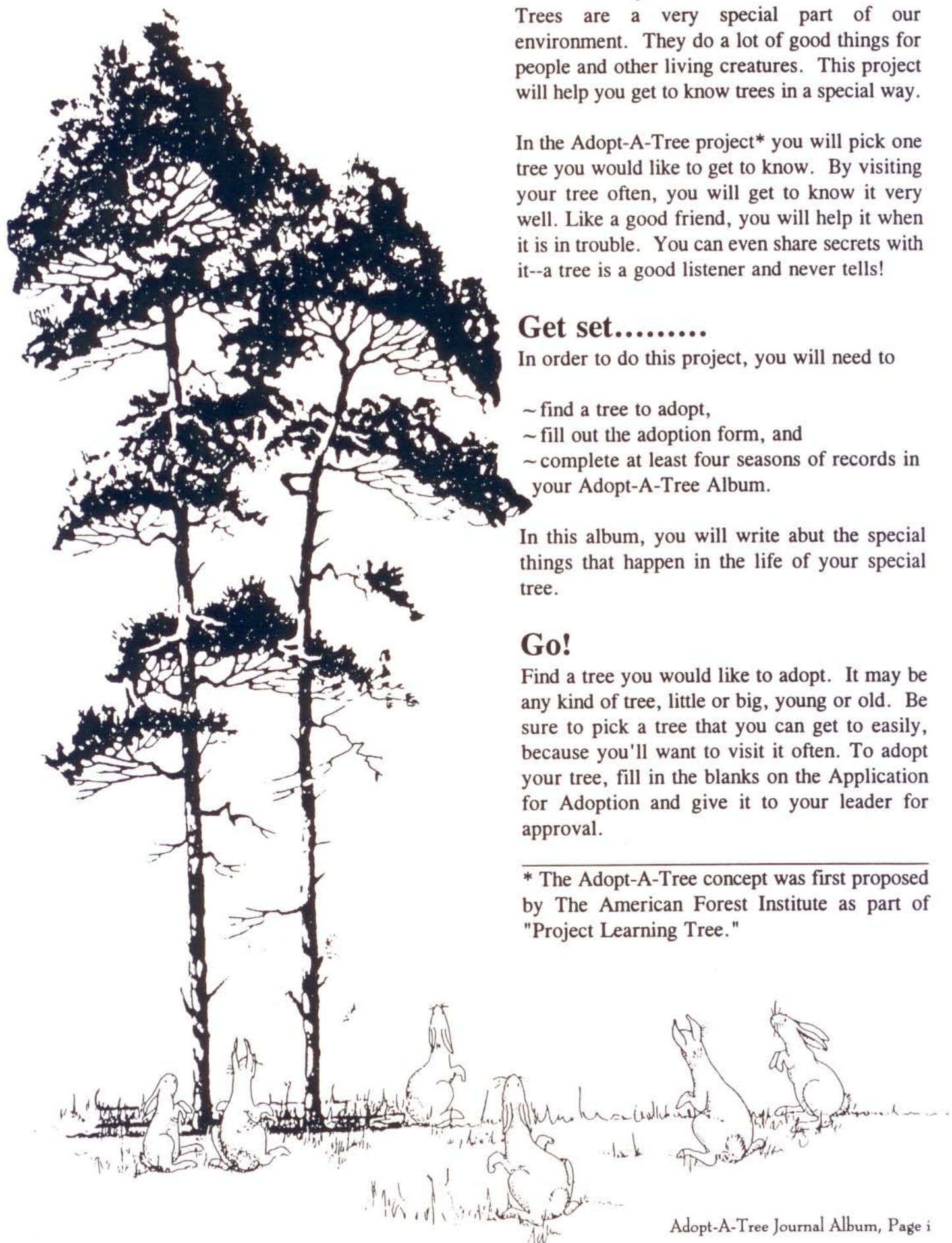
- ~ find a tree to adopt,
- ~ fill out the adoption form, and
- ~ complete at least four seasons of records in your Adopt-A-Tree Album.

In this album, you will write about the special things that happen in the life of your special tree.

Go!

Find a tree you would like to adopt. It may be any kind of tree, little or big, young or old. Be sure to pick a tree that you can get to easily, because you'll want to visit it often. To adopt your tree, fill in the blanks on the Application for Adoption and give it to your leader for approval.

* The Adopt-A-Tree concept was first proposed by The American Forest Institute as part of "Project Learning Tree."



OFFICIAL

Adopt a Tree Certificate

Official Tree Name _____

Nickname _____

Birthplace _____

Circumference (measure at 4 ½ feet above ground) _____

Height _____

Age _____

Identifying Characteristics _____

Adopted By _____

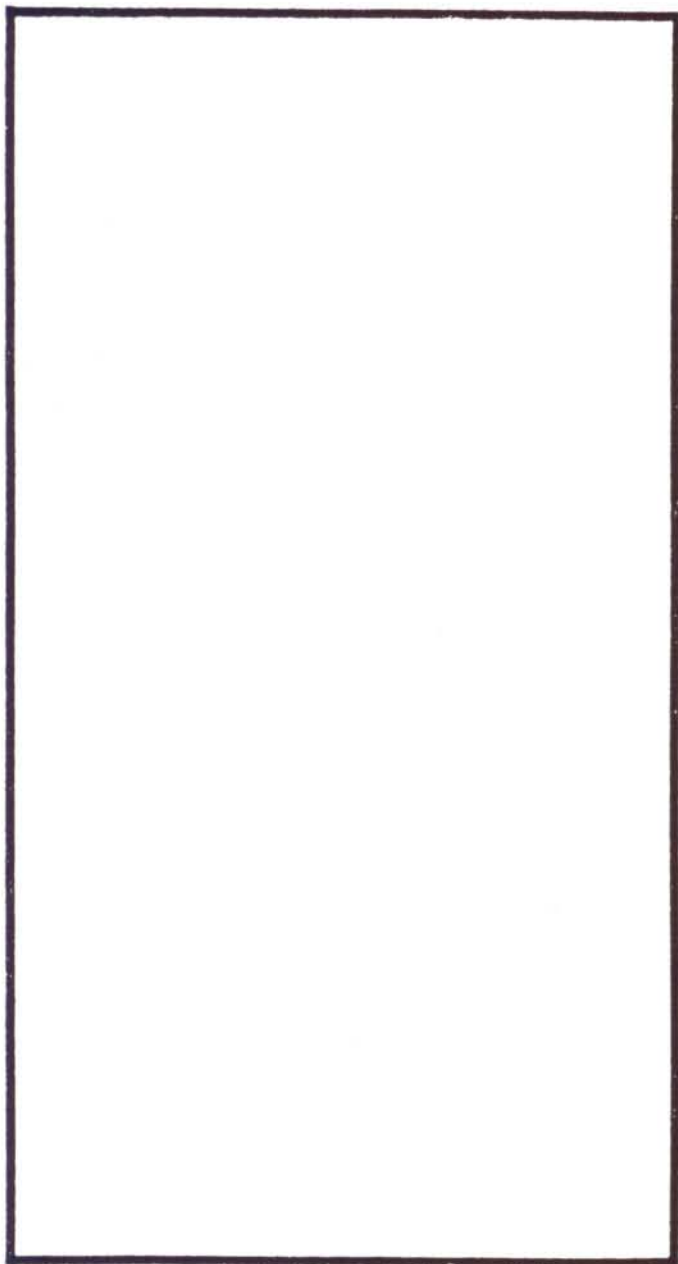
Date _____

One Especially Interesting Thing About My Tree
Is _____

Products that can be made from my
tree _____

Place Leaf Rubbing in the Space Above

- Draw a picture or take a photograph of your tree to put in your album. Try to get some of the other plants and animals you find around your tree into the photo or drawing.
- Also draw a picture of what your tree looked like when it was a seed.



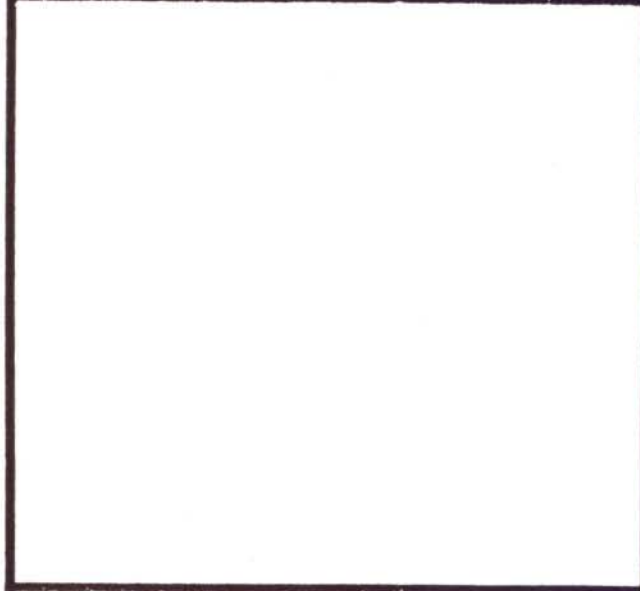
My tree on my first visit

Date _____

On the day of my first visit,
the weather was



My tree as a seed
before it sprouted



- Pick two leaves from your tree. Measure them and record below how long and how wide they are.

Is your tree evergreen or deciduous? _____

If it is **evergreen**, it will keep its green leaves through the winter.

If it is **deciduous**, the leaves will lose their green color in autumn and fall off the tree before next year's leaves begin to grow.

Here are two ways to make a print of one of your tree's leaves.

1. Place a leaf bottom-side-up on an ink stamp pad.
Cover the leaf with a piece of paper and press down to cover it with ink.
Remove the paper and put the leaf on the rectangle below, labeled "First leaf print."
Put a clean sheet of paper on the leaf and press down.
Remove the leaf and carefully throw it away. The ink print will be left on the page.
2. Lay the leaf bottom-side-up on a hard surface, such as a table top.
Cover it with a thin sheet of paper (typing paper will work).
Rub gently over the paper with a crayon or soft pencil.
Where there are ridges in the leaf, the color will be darker.
Cut the print to fit in the rectangle labeled "First leaf print." Tape or glue it neatly in place.

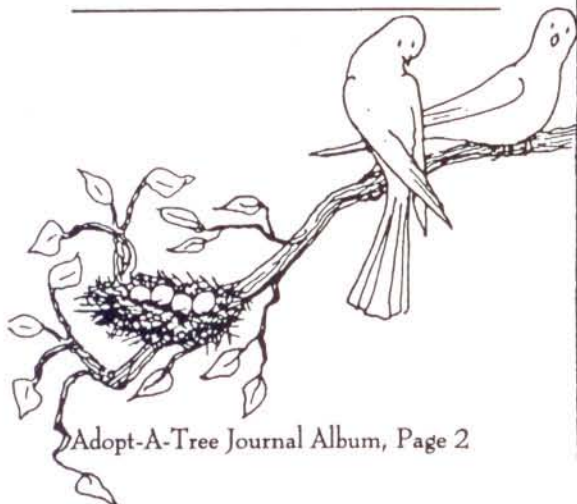
First leaf print

Date _____

The leaves are _____ inches long

The leaves are _____ inches long

The leaves are (evergreen or deciduous) _____



- Make a bark rubbing of your tree by holding a sheet of thin paper against the bark and gently rubbing the side of a crayon over the paper. If your tree has very rough bark, you will need to be careful not to tear the paper.
- Describe how the bark of your tree *looks* (texture, color, pattern) and *feels* (smooth, stringy, rough, etc.).

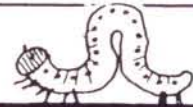
Bark rubbing



The bark looks _____

It feels _____

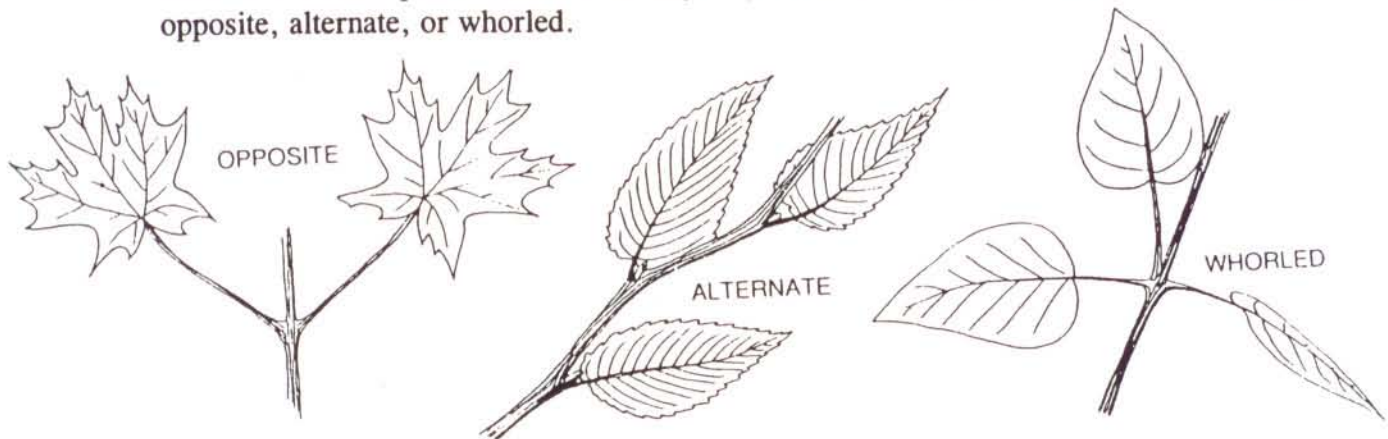
- Draw a picture of one of the *twigs* on your tree.



Is there a bud or leaf at the end (terminal) of each twig? _____

The *leaves* and *buds* of a tree can be arranged on their stems in an opposite, alternate, or whorled pattern.

- If your tree has an *opposite* growing pattern, its leaves and buds will be directly across from each other on the stem.
- If your tree has an alternate growing pattern, the leaves and buds will grow out of the stem alternately--one on the right and then one on the left.
- If your tree has a *whorled* growing pattern, several leaves and buds will grow out of the stem at the same place. Look carefully at your tree to see if its leaves and buds are opposite, alternate, or whorled.

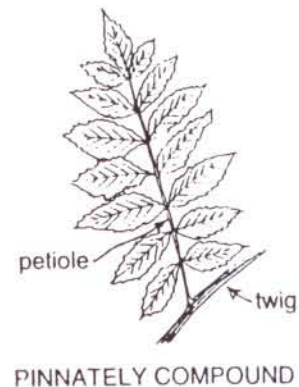
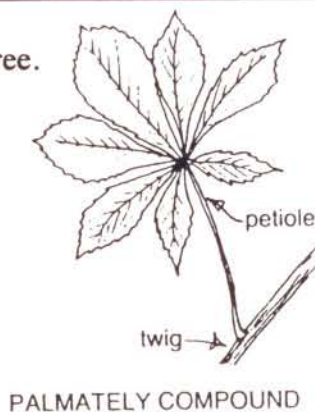
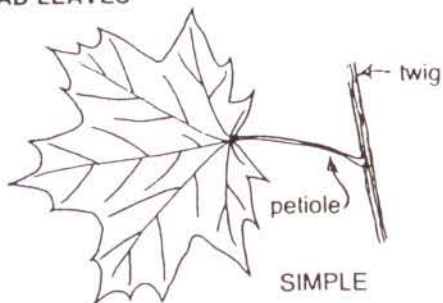


Branches and leaves on my tree are arranged _____

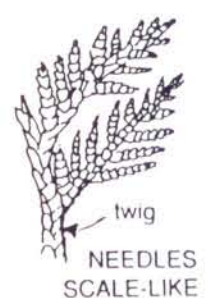
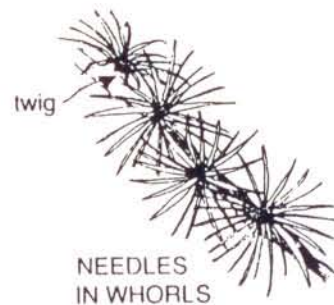
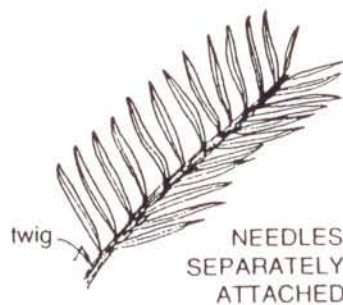
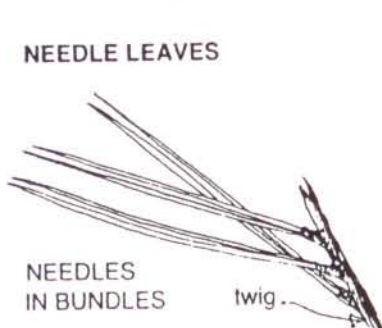
The branching habit of my tree is _____

- Look carefully at a leaf from your tree.

BROAD LEAVES



NEEDLE LEAVES



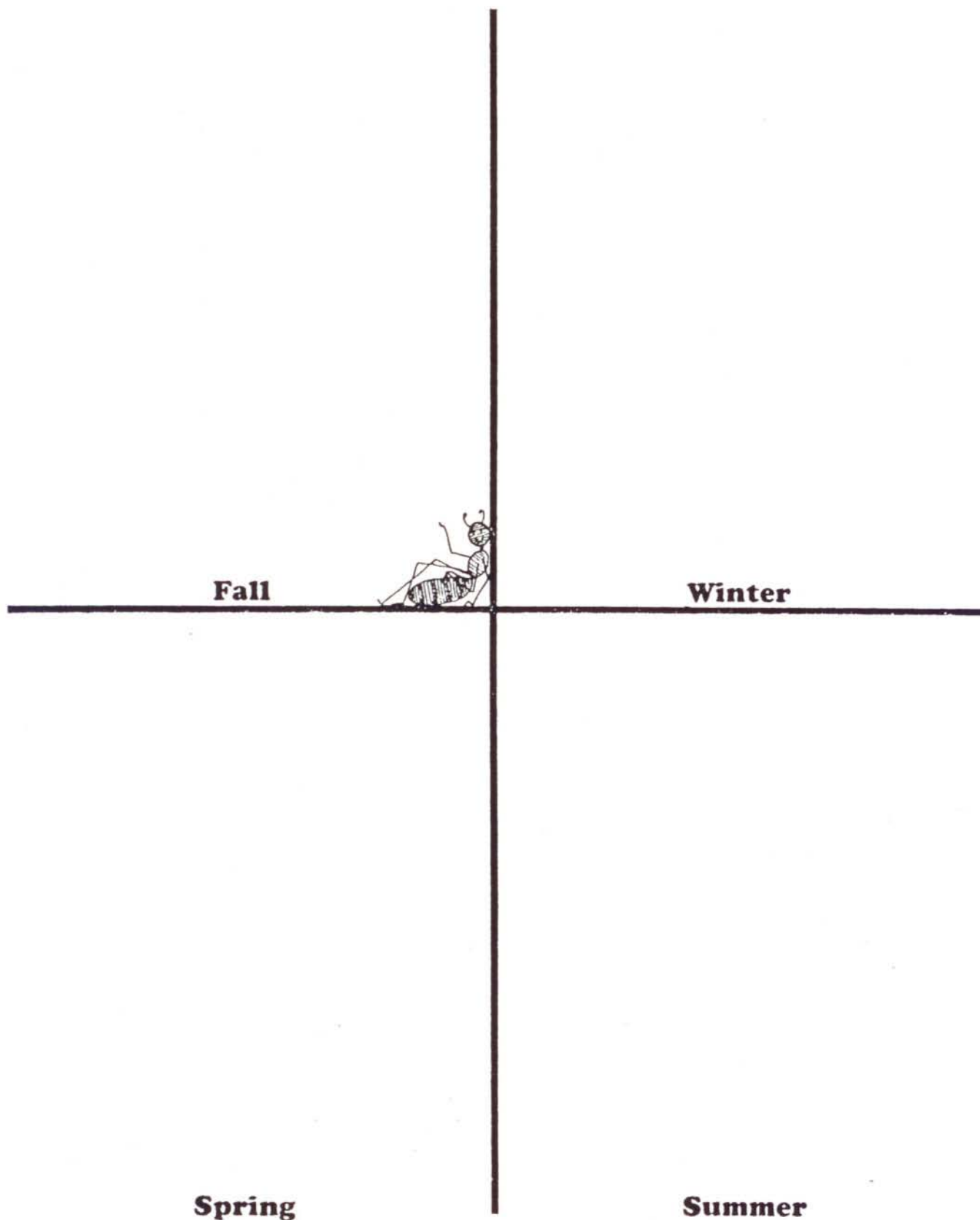
Which kind of leaf grows on your tree? _____

- Make a list of all the things you can think of that trees do for you. Think about things made from wood, things that grow on or live in trees, and ways trees make life more fun or comfortable for you.
- If your tree has strong limbs, you may want to climb it to see what the world looks like from its point of view. Draw a picture as if you were looking down from a branch or looking up into the tree from the ground. If your tree is small, don't try to climb it. A broken tree limb heals much more slowly than a broken arm and can allow infections to kill or weaken your tree.

What trees do for me

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

- Visit your tree at least twice a week in spring and fall, and once a week in summer and winter. Draw a picture or take a photograph at each season and record the changes you see in your album.



- At least once each season spend an hour or more visiting your tree.
Watch for and write down what other animals (besides you) visit your tree.
- Do other plants live in or near your tree? Write about them in your album.

Fall visits

Date of first color change _____

Date of last green leaf _____

Date the first leaf fell _____

Date the last leaf fell _____

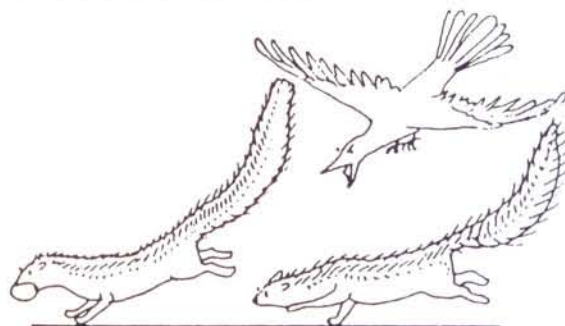


Photo or drawing of twig with next year's buds

What birds and other animals have you seen on or near
your tree?

_____	Date _____
_____	Date _____
_____	Date _____
_____	Date _____
_____	Date _____
_____	Date _____
_____	Date _____
_____	Date _____
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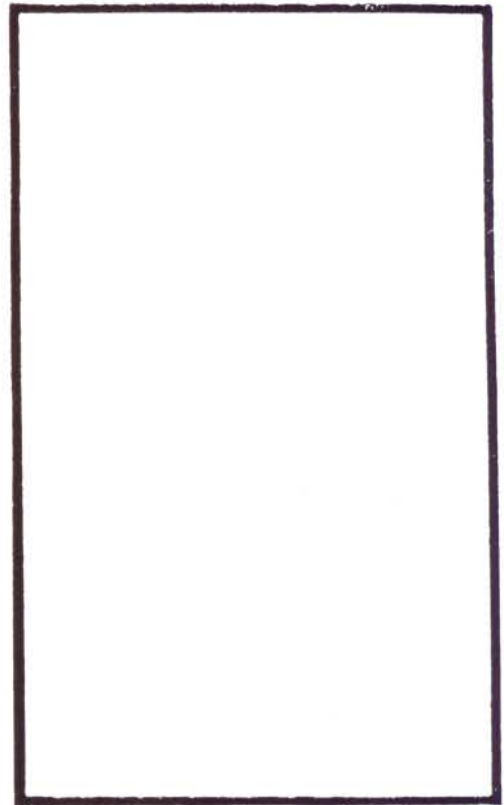
Other plants noticed _____

Winter visits

Date of first freeze (if it freezes) _____

What kind of tracks have you seen around your tree?

_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____



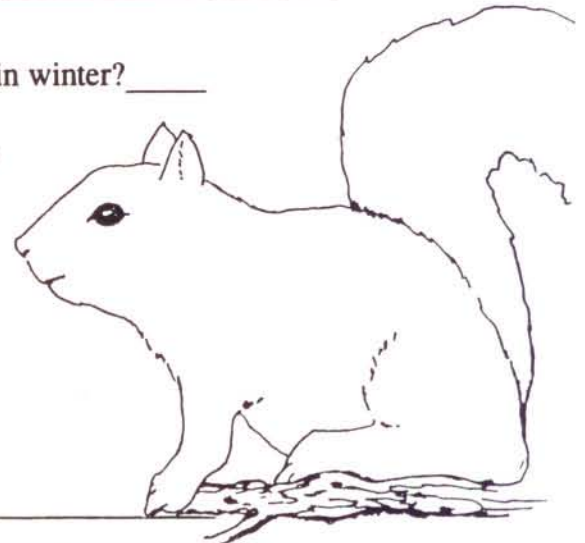
**Photo or drawing of
Seeds or nuts**

What animal homes are now visible in your tree? _____

Are seeds of your tree still visible and available to wildlife in winter? _____

What animals, if any, have you seen eating or storing seeds
from your tree?

_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____
_____ Date _____



Temperature in shade of tree _____ Date _____
Temperature in sun _____ Date _____

Other plants noticed _____

Spring visits

Date of first bud opening _____

Photo or drawing
of buds beginning
to open

Do the first buds to open contain flowers, leaves, or both? _____

Date your tree is in full flower _____

Date of first robin seen in or near your tree _____

Date first nest building activity is observed _____

Date your tree has leaves on every branch _____

Date of first picnic or book read under tree _____

Length of a leaf when first seen _____ Date _____

Length of the same leaf on next visit _____ Date _____

Length of the leaf in last week of school _____ Date _____

Length of a bud on first day of spring _____ Date _____

Length of the twig one week later _____ Date _____

Length of the twig in last week of school _____ Date _____

Date leaves are all dark green _____

Animals seen on or under your tree

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

What insects have you seen on your tree?

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

Other plants noticed

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

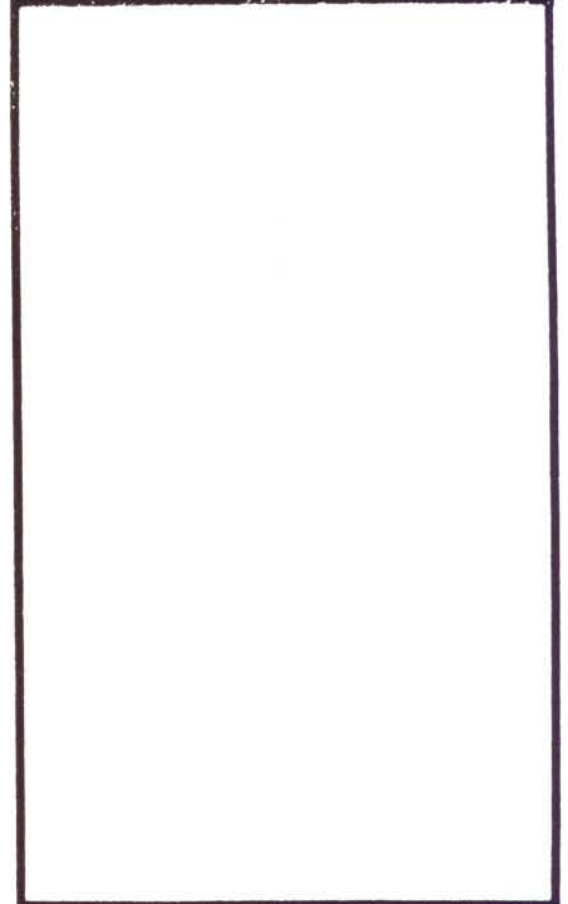
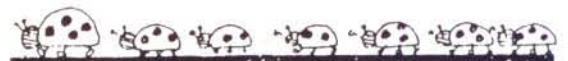


Photo or drawing of flowers on twig



Summer visits

Temperature in shade of tree _____ Date _____ Temperature in sun _____ Date _____

What did you do during your first long visit to your tree after school was out? _____

What animals visited your tree during your visit? _____

Does your tree shown signs of being "thirsty"? _____

What signs does it show? _____

What did you do about it? _____

Look closely at several leaves. What signs of insects, if any, do you see?

Find out what insects are eating your tree, list them.

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

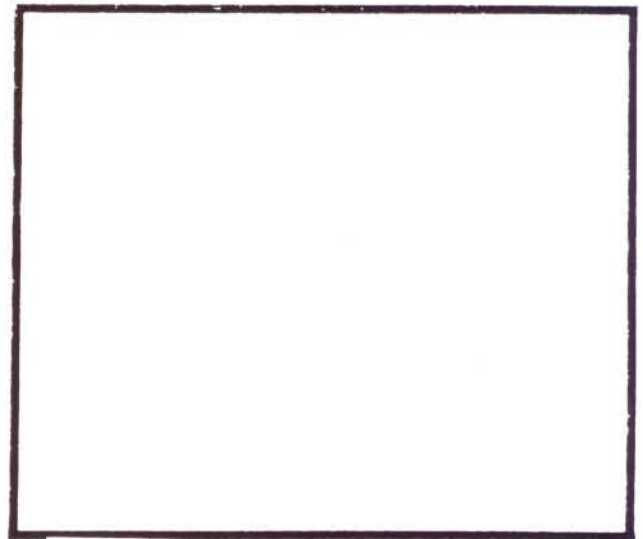
_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____

_____ Date _____



**Photo or drawing of
fruits or seeds in summer**

What sounds do you hear when you lie under your tree? _____

Is it nicer to read a book in the shade or sunlight? _____

Why? _____

