



PANDO

A Living Wonder of Trees



educational

TEACHING GUIDE

The Sunny Side ©

AUTHOR- KATE ALLEN FOX

ILLUSTRATOR- TURINE TRAN

PUBLISHER- CAPSTONE EDITIONS

PANDO

teaching guide

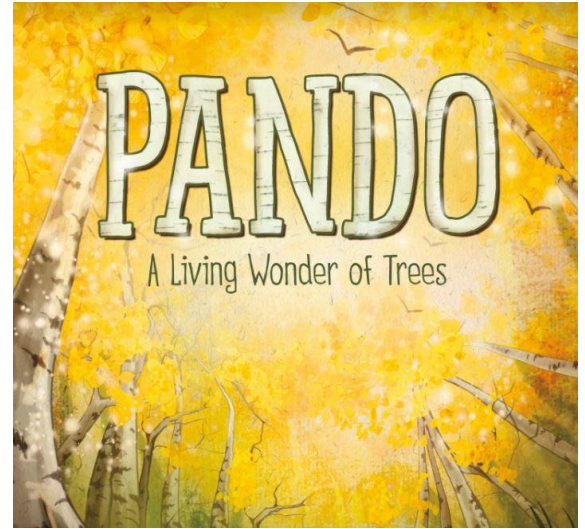
ABOUT THE BOOK

Pando is an inspiring tribute to a Utah grove of quaking Aspen trees connected by their roots to form one of the world's oldest and largest living things. Author Kate Allen Fox engages readers' senses to help convey the vastness of Pando, the challenges it faces, and how we all can be part of the solution. With lyrical poetry, Fox summarizes the science, action, and compassion needed to save this wonder of nature.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KATE ALLEN FOX

Kate Allen Fox lives in southern California with her husband and two sons. After a career as a public health professional, she combined her passions for research and writing and began creating picture books about science and nature. Her work has appeared in several publications, including *The New York Times*. This is her first picture book.



PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Before reading *Pando* consider the following activities to engage your readers.

1. Take a picture walk of the story, flipping each page and pointing out the illustrations. Encourage students to predict what will happen in the story.
2. Host a class-wide discussion about conservation. What is it and why is it important?
3. Create a mind map to record what students already know about Pando.



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printing reference guide

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EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

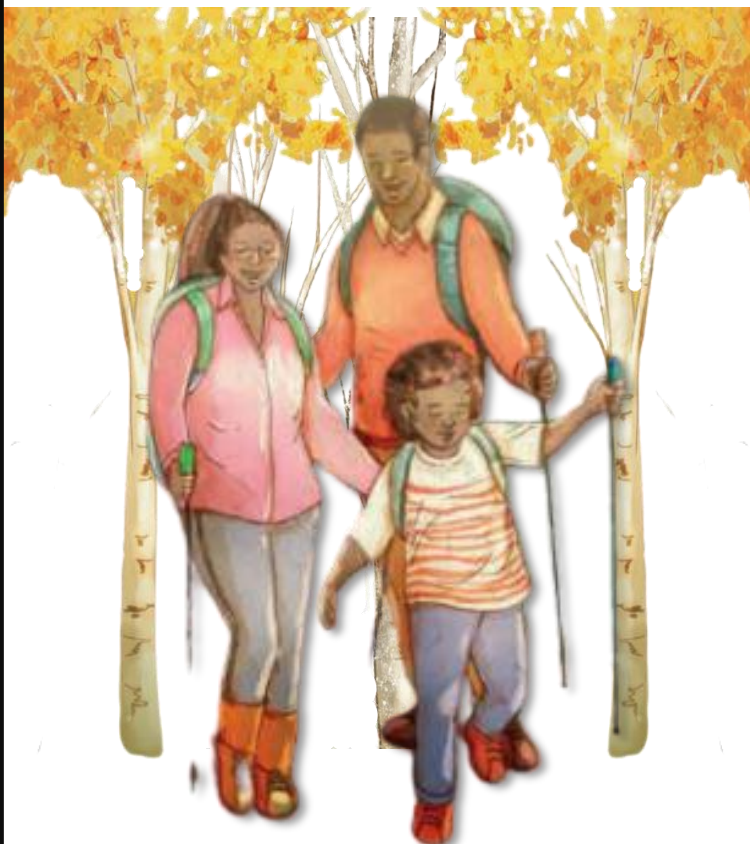
Pando explores the importance of conservation. The inquiry-driven activities in this guide apply to a variety of content areas and educational standards. They may be used for a range of learners and are aligned to the CCSS and NGSS.

WRITING

conservation letter

Target Grade Range: 3rd – 6th Grade

One way that people can help save our precious planet is by becoming advocates for conservation. In this literacy activity, students will write a letter to government officials, communicating the need for local conservation. The differentiated graphic organizers and writing papers support a wide range of learners.



SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL

reflecting on the environment

Target Grade Range: K – 6th Grade

The heart of *Pando* teaches us the importance of conservation. The backmatter of the story even offers ways humans can support conservation efforts. In this social-emotional activity, students will reflect on how they can positively impact our environment. Instead of writing, Kindergarten and 1st grade students can draw a picture of how they can positively impact the environment rather than write. This community building exercise promotes speaking and listening skills, while promoting the meaningful message of the story.

ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS

memory match vocabulary

Target Grade Range: 3rd – 6th Grade

Pando introduces readers to many new vocabulary words. Students can test their knowledge of the new terminology by playing a memory match game with a partner. There is an additional spinner activity for groups of students who finish early. These fun and interactive exercises help students better understand the new terms introduced throughout the story.



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Pando explores the importance of conservation. The inquiry-driven activities in this guide apply to a variety of content areas and educational standards. They may be used for a range of learners and are aligned to the CCSS and NGSS.

MATH

Learning estimation!

Target Grade Range: 3rd – 6th Grade

From start to finish we see many instances of estimation in the story. From the number of stars you can see on a clear night to miles around the equator. Estimation is an important math skill that's needed outside of school. In this activity, students will learn that an estimation is an educated guess. Students will make estimations about different objects. Finally, they'll reflect on their guesses and may have the opportunity to research their estimations depending on their access to technology. There are 3 differentiated worksheet options for a range of learners and grade levels.

SCIENCE

how trees grow flipbook

Target Grade Range: 3rd – 6th Grade

Pando teaches us how Aspen trees grow from seed to full grown tree. In this science activity, students will create an interactive flipbook, highlighting the step-by-step life cycle of a tree.

STEM

design a home for birdy

Target Grade Range: K – 6th Grade

In the story we learn that trees are an important food source and shelter for many different animals. In this STEM Challenge students will design and build a tree home for a bird using materials given to them. They'll follow the engineering design process and brainstorm, plan, design, observe, and reflect on their findings. This STEM activity can be differentiated for older and younger learners. If you're choosing to use this activity with K-2nd grade students, it may be beneficial to skip the STEM CHALLENGE worksheet and allow students to simply create. See the lesson for a list of specific materials.





EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Pando explores the importance of conservation. The inquiry-driven activities in this guide apply to a variety of content areas and educational standards. They may be used for a range of learners and are aligned to the CCSS and NGSS.



SOCIAL SCIENCE

Mapping out aspen trees

Target Grade Range: 3rd – 6th Grade

Did you know that Aspen trees live all around the world? *Pando* is just one of many locations where Aspen trees can be found. *Pando* provides the perfect opportunity to practice important map skills. This social science activity encourages students to put their skills to the test, as they map out different species of Aspen trees world-wide.

ART

tree root art

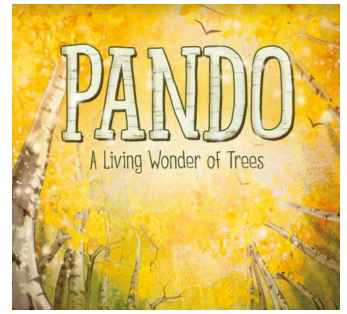
Target Grade Range: K – 6th Grade

What better way to celebrate PANDO than with an art project? Have students show what they learned while reading with this fun tree root art project. Students will connect the roots underground with a brown crayon or marker.

PANDO

SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL ACTIVITY

reflecting on the environment

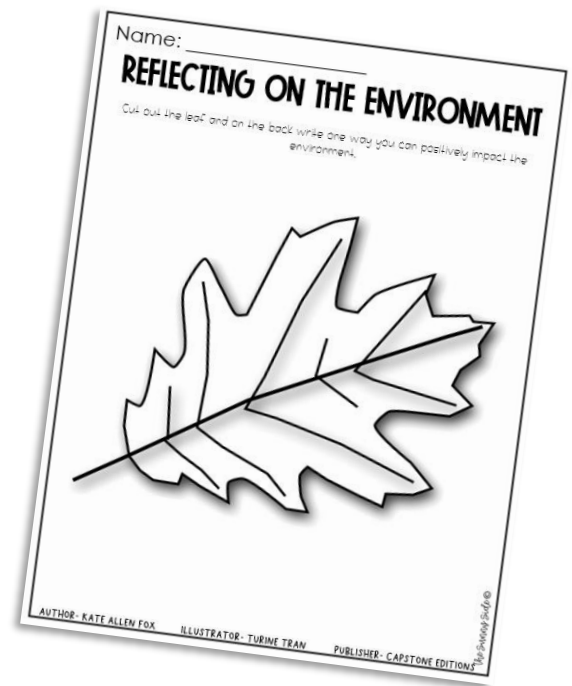


Common Core State Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

You will need:

- White or colored copy paper
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Crayons / colored pencils / markers
- Tape
- White board / oversized poster paper



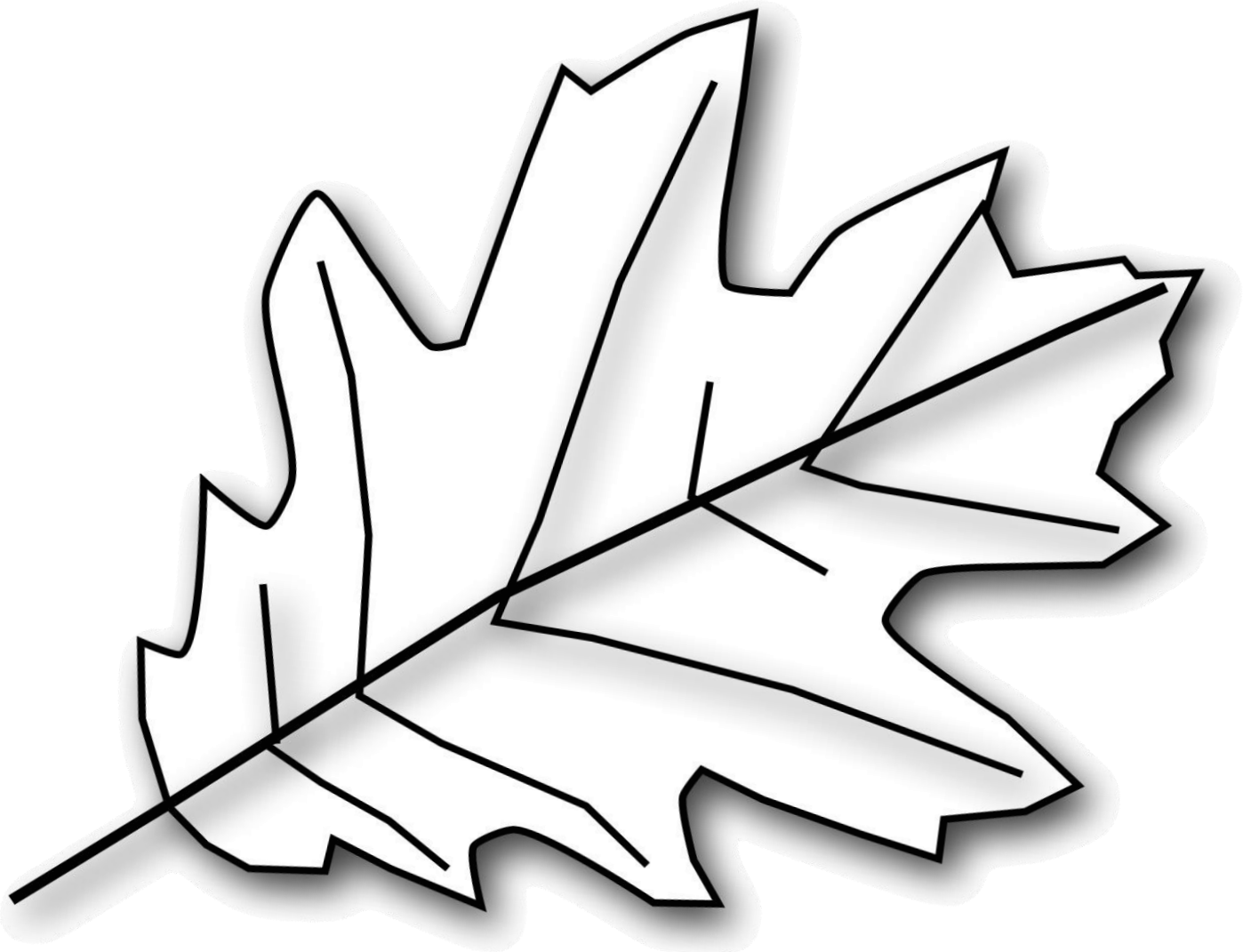
Step by step to do list:

1. Copy the reflection leaves on white or fall colored copy paper.
2. Brainstorm a list of ways that of ways that students can have a positive impact on our environment (e.g., reducing the amount of plastic waste, volunteering to help clean up a local area, spreading the word about conservation, etc.).
3. Have students cut the leaf out (if you copied on white paper, students may color it with crayons / colored pencils / markers).
4. Then, they should write one way that they can have a positive impact on our environment.
5. Students will then share what they wrote with the class.
6. Draw a tree trunk on a whiteboard / large paper.
7. Collect the leaves and tape them together to create a class-wide tree display.

Name: _____

REFLECTING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

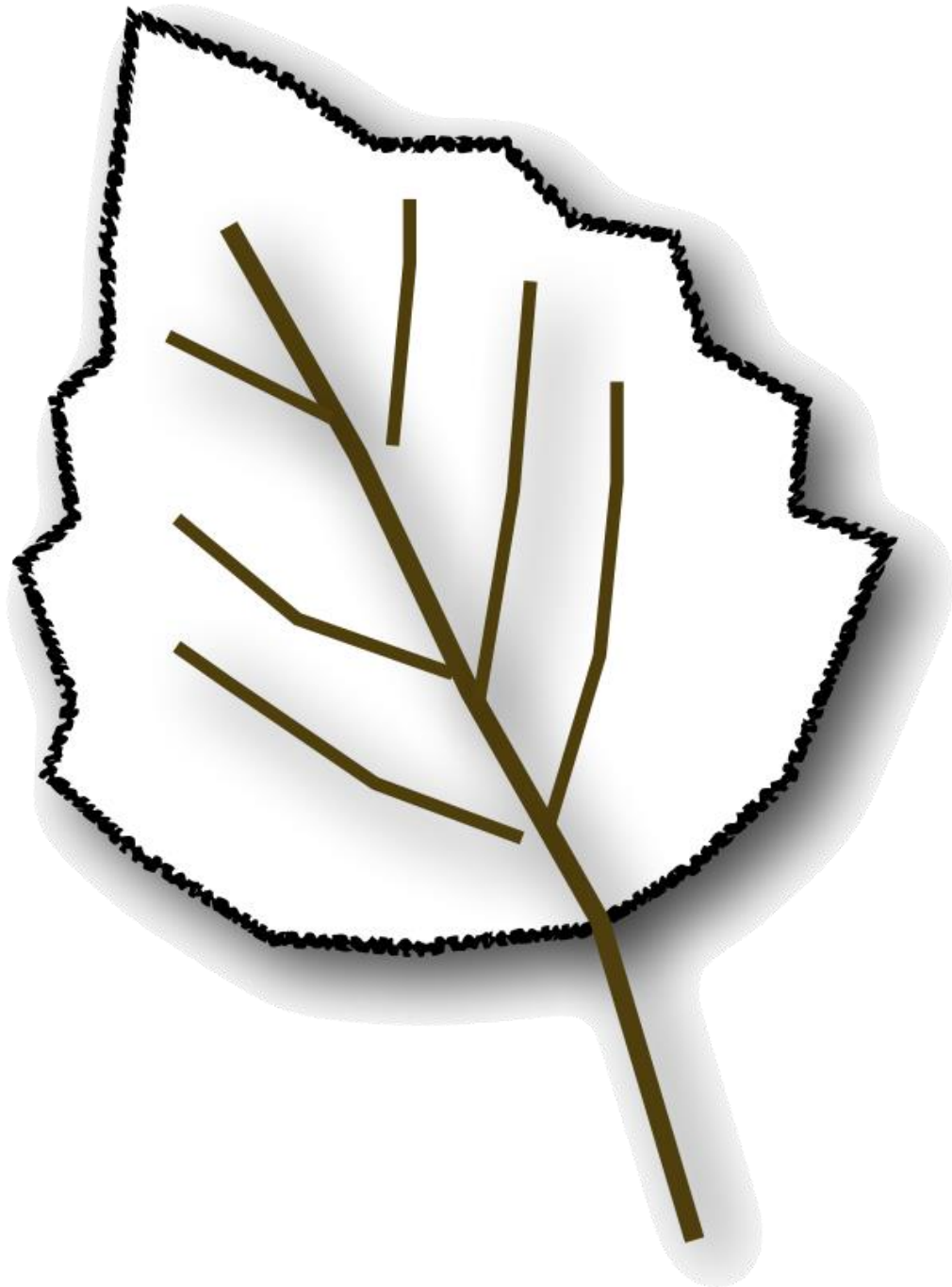
Cut out the leaf and on the back write one way you can positively impact the environment.



Name: _____

REFLECTING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

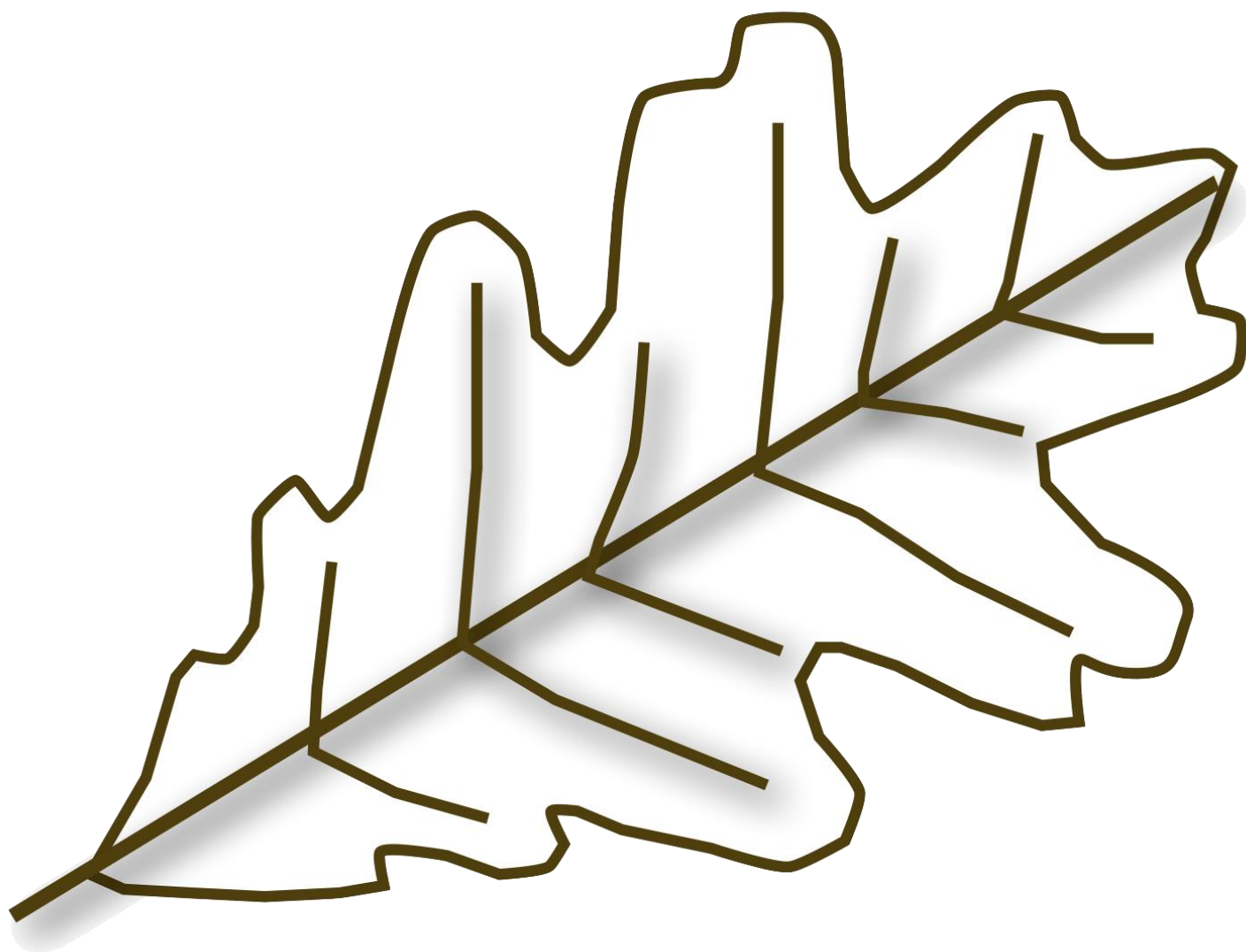
Cut out the leaf and on the back write one way you can positively impact the environment.



Name: _____

REFLECTING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Cut out the leaf and on the back write one way you can positively impact the environment.



Name: _____

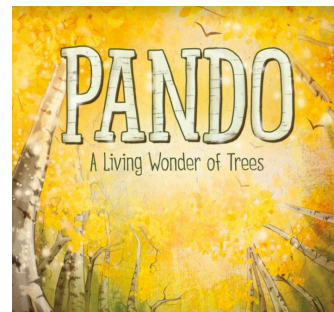
REFLECTING ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Cut out the leaf and on the back write one way you can positively impact the environment.



WRITING ACTIVITY

conservation letter



Common Core State Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.1

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.1

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.1

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils

The image shows a sample 'CONSERVATION LETTER' form. At the top, there is a line for 'Name:'. Below that, the title 'CONSERVATION LETTER' is written in large, bold, black letters. The form has several horizontal lines for writing. At the bottom, there is a line for a signature and a line for a date. The form is tilted slightly to the right. At the bottom of the form, there is small text: 'AUTHOR: KATE ALLEN FOX ILLUSTRATOR: TURINE TRAN PUBLISHER: CAPSTONE EDITIONS The Writing Side ©'.

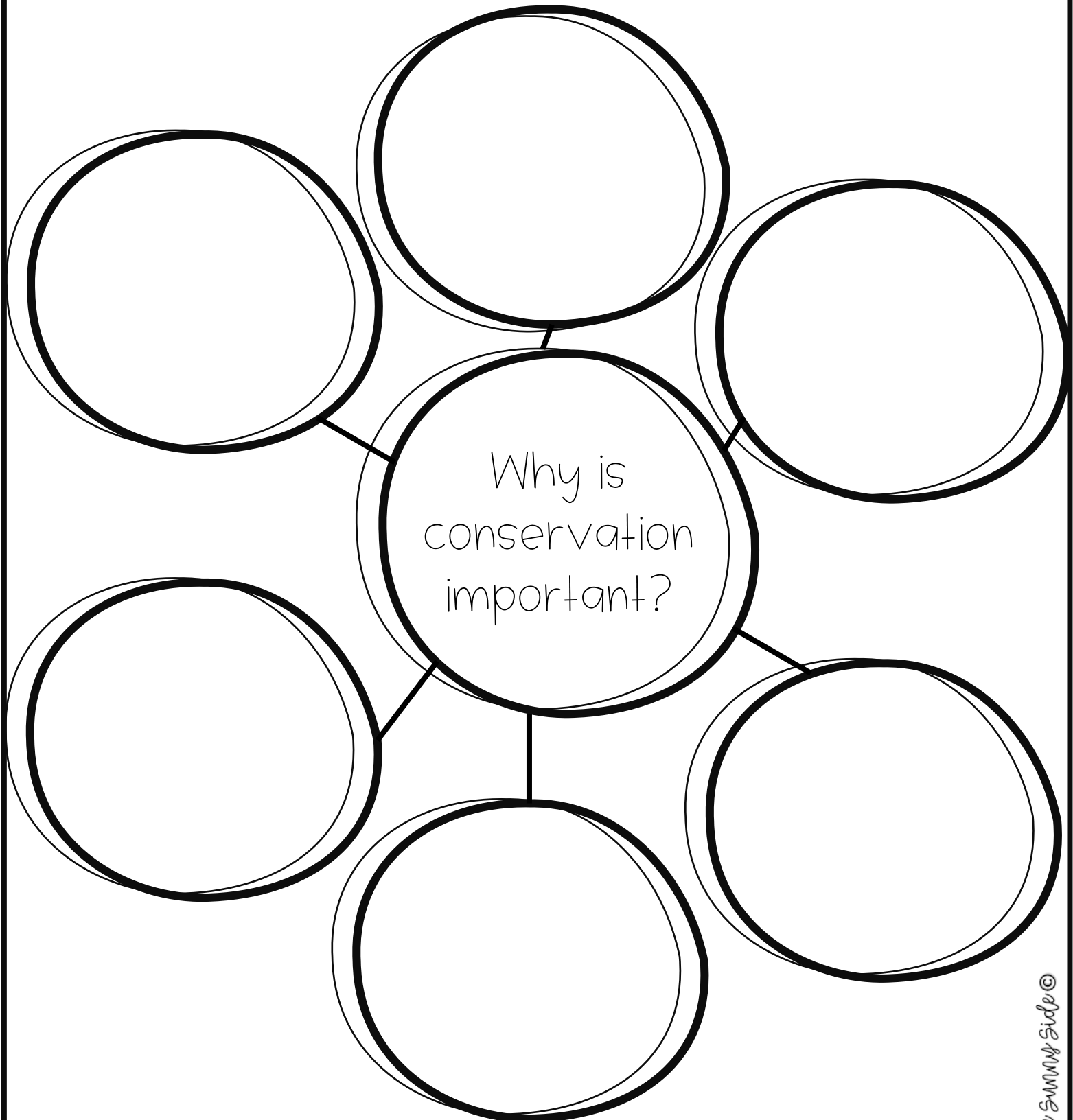
Step by step to do list:

1. Decide which differentiated graphic organizer and writing paper works best for your students and copy on white paper.
2. Copy the mind maps on white copy paper as well.
3. Discuss with students why conservation is important.
4. Distribute the graphic organizers and writing paper to students.
5. Encourage students to write the reasons discussed in the outer circles.
6. Model for students how to choose and sequence their reasons, using the graphic organizer.
7. Finally, have students use their reason graphic organizer to write a letter promoting conservation on the writing paper.

Name: _____

CONSERVATION MIND MAP

Brainstorm why conservation is important. Write a different reason in each circle.



Name: _____

SEQUENCE YOUR REASONS!

Choose three reasons why conservation is important to include in your letter.

FIRST

NEXT

FINALLY

Name: _____

SEQUENCE YOUR REASONS!

Choose three reasons why conservation is important to include in your letter.

FIRST

NEXT

FINALLY

Name: _____

SEQUENCE YOUR REASONS!

Choose three reasons why conservation is important to include in your letter.

FIRST

NEXT

FINALLY

Name: _____

CONSERVATION LETTER

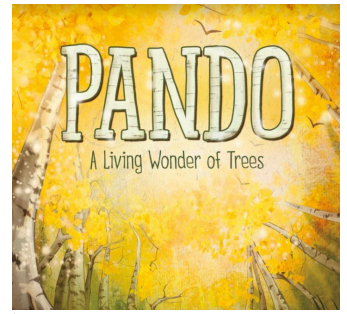
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Name: _____

CONSERVATION LETTER

_____,

ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITY



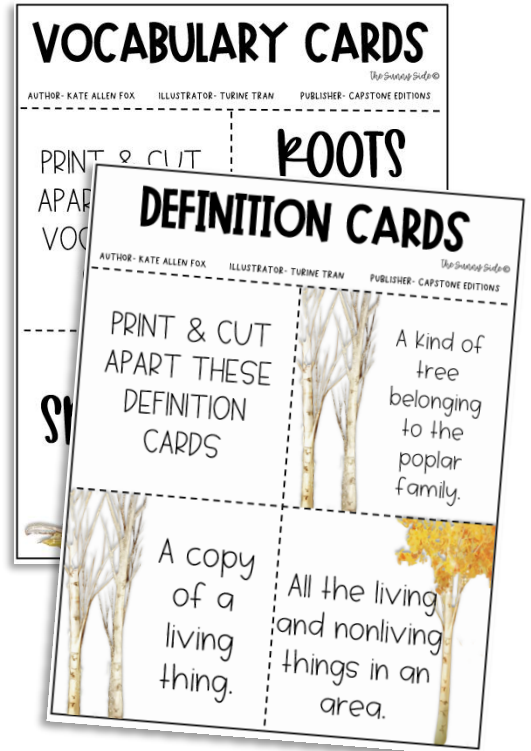
memory match vocabulary

Common Core State Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.3.4
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.4.4
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.5.4
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.6.4

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Access to printer (color / black and white)
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Paper clips (optional)
- Laminating supplies (optional)



Step by step to do list:

1. Copy the vocabulary and definition cards in color or black and white.
2. Cut apart the vocabulary and definition cards and laminate for durability (optional).
3. Have students face all cards down and with a partner take turns flipping the cards to find a match.
4. If students draw two of the same type of card, they may re-draw.
5. The partner with the most matches at the end wins.
6. When students finish with the memory match, they may use the spinners to test each other's knowledge of the new vocabulary words.

VOCABULARY CARDS

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PRINT & CUT
APART THESE
VOCABULARY
CARDS

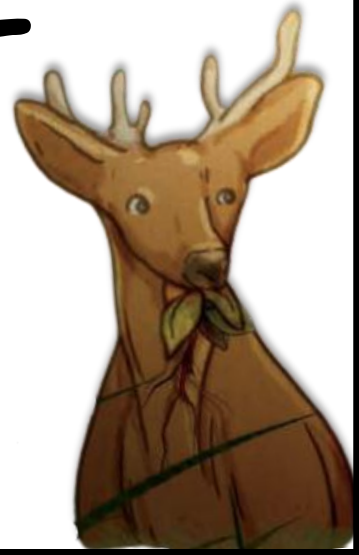
ROOTS



SPROUT



SOIL



VOCABULARY CARDS

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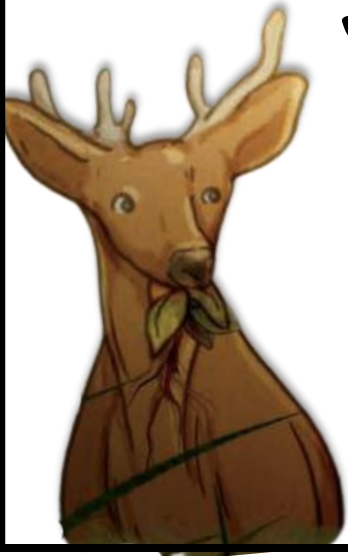
CLONE



ASPEN



SEED



ECOSYSTEM



DEFINITION CARDS

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ILLUSTRATOR- TURINE TRAN

PUBLISHER- CAPSTONE EDITIONS

PRINT & CUT
APART THESE
DEFINITION
CARDS



A kind of
tree
belonging
to the
poplar
family.



A copy
of a
living
thing.

All the living
and nonliving
things in an
area.



DEFINITION CARDS

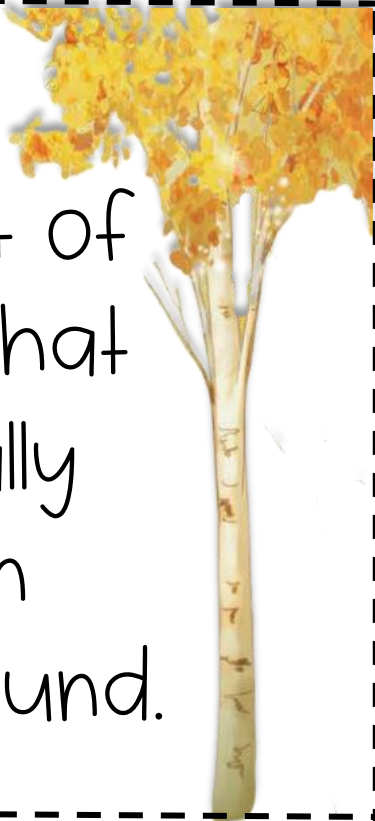
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The part of a plant that is usually hidden underground.



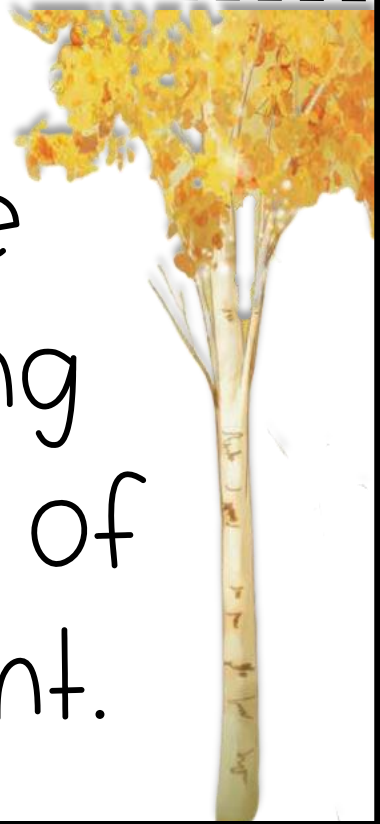
The part of a plant that grows into a new plant.



Dirt where plants can grow.



The young shoot of a plant.



VOCABULARY SPINNERS

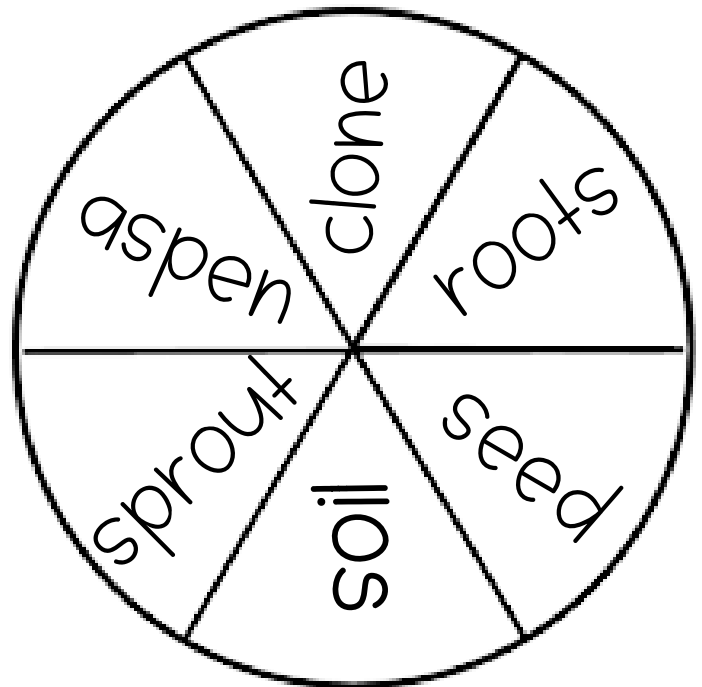
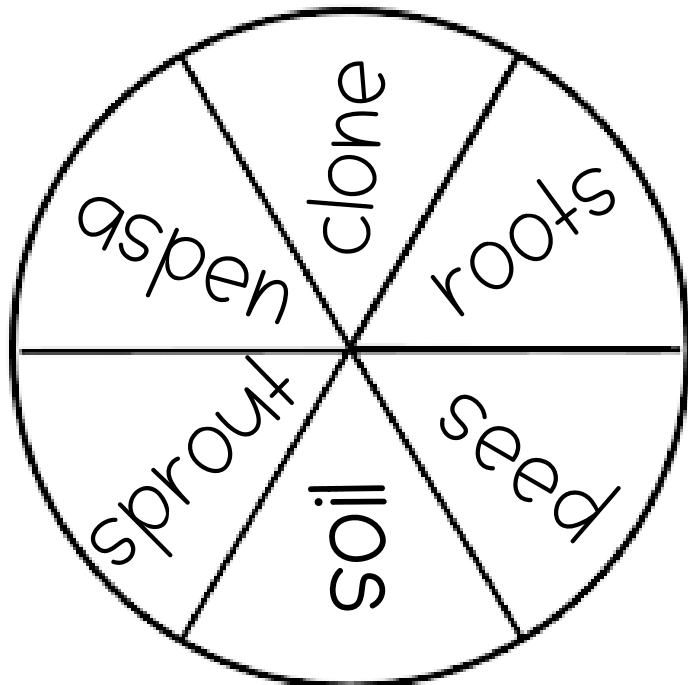
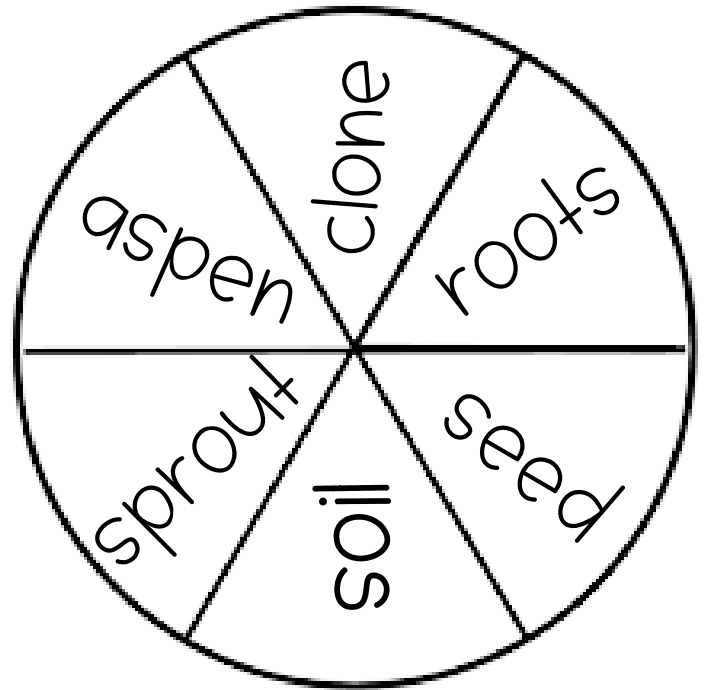
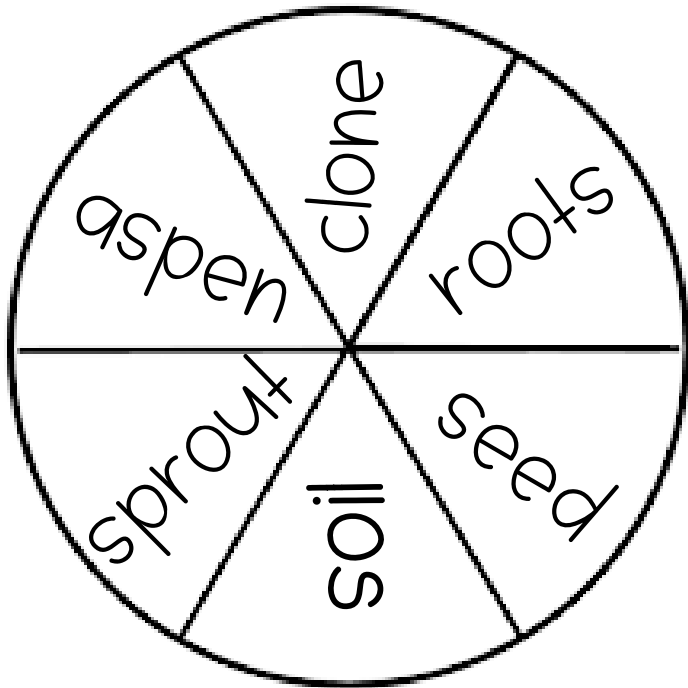
Grab a spinner, a pencil, a paperclip, and a partner. Take turns spinning your spinner and ask your partner the definition of each vocabulary word.

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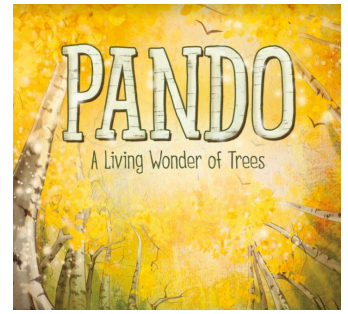
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MATH ACTIVITY

learning estimation



Common Core State Standards:

- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.3.OA.D.8
- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.4.OA.A.3
- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.5.NF.A.2
- CCSS.MATH.CONTENT.6.SP.B.5.A

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Chromebooks / I-pads (optional)

Step by step to do list:

1. First, decide which differentiated worksheet works best for your students.
2. Copy the estimation pages on white copy paper.
3. Discuss with students what it means to estimate and explain that an estimate is an educated guess.
4. Write several examples of estimation on the board.
5. Then, allow students to make their own estimations about the objects on the worksheet.
6. Encourage students to physically count or look up their answers online to determine if they are correct.
7. Allow an opportunity for students to share their estimations with a partner or the class.

Name: _____

LEARNING ESTIMATION

An estimate is an educated guess. Consider each object listed and write an estimate. Then, count or research to see if you were right.

| OBJECT | ESTIMATE | WERE YOU RIGHT? |
|------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Number of boys in the classroom? | | |
| Number of girls in the classroom? | | |
| Number of posters on the wall? | | |
| Number of kids in the school? | | |
| Number of cars in the parking lot? | | |
| Number of crayons in your desk? | | |
| Number of teachers in the school? | | |

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Name: _____

LEARNING ESTIMATION

An estimate is an educated guess. Consider each object listed and write an estimate.
Then, count or research to see if you were right.

| OBJECT | ESTIMATE | WERE YOU RIGHT? |
|------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Number of kids in the classroom? | | |
| Number of classmates wearing blue? | | |
| Number of posters on the wall? | | |
| Number of kids in the school? | | |
| Number of cars in the parking lot? | | |
| Number of crayons in your desk? | | |
| Number of teachers in the school? | | |

Name: _____

LEARNING ESTIMATION

An estimate is an educated guess. Consider each object listed and write an estimate. Then, count or research to see if you were right.

| OBJECT | ESTIMATE | WERE YOU RIGHT? |
|--|----------|-----------------|
| Number of books in your desk? | | |
| Number of kids in the school? | | |
| Number of fast-food restaurants in town? | | |
| Number of days without rain this month? | | |
| The length of your desk in inches? | | |
| The distance from the nearest city in miles? | | |
| The cost of an x-box in dollars? | | |

The Sunny Side ©

Name: _____

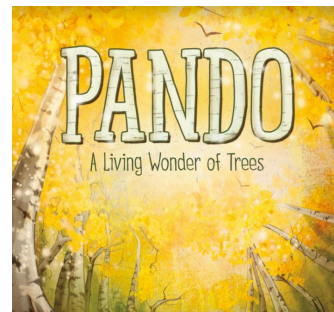
LEARNING ESTIMATION

An estimate is an educated guess. Create a list of objects and write an estimate.
Then, count or research to see if you were right.

| OBJECT | ESTIMATE | WERE YOU RIGHT? |
|--------|----------|-----------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

SCIENCE ACTIVITY

how trees grow flipbook

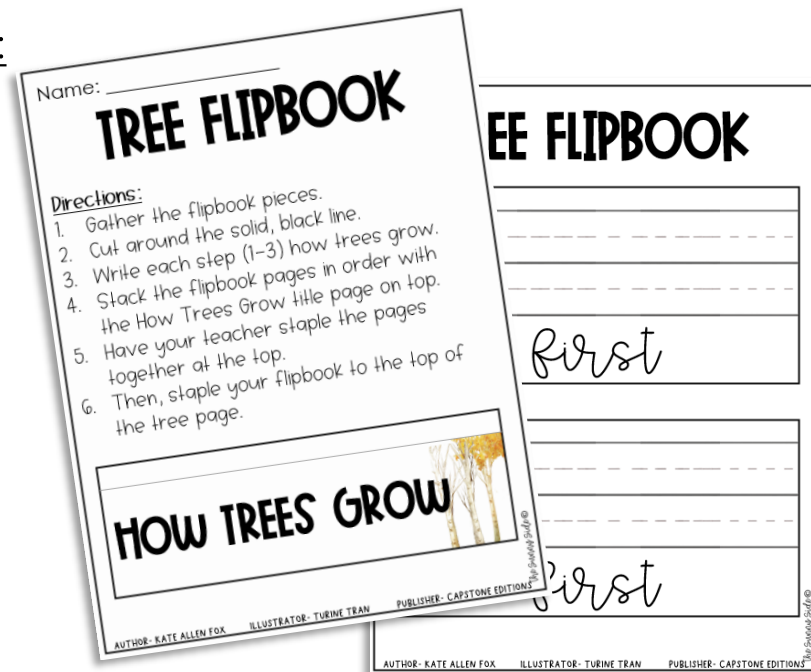


Next Generation Science Standards:

- 3-LS1-1.
- 3-LS3-1.
- 3-LS3-2.
- MS-LS1-4.
- MS-LS1-5.
- MS-LS4-5.

You will need:

- White or colored copy paper
- Pencils
- Stapler



Step by step to do list:

1. Decide which differentiated flipbook pages work best for your students.
2. Copy the flipbook pieces on white or colored copy paper (copying the pages as a stapled packet works best).
3. Have students cut around the solid black lines of each flipbook page.
4. Write the step-by-step process of how trees grow (steps 1 – 3) using what students learned from the book.
5. Have students stack the flipbook pages in order with the How Trees Grow title page on top.
6. Staple (or if your students are old enough have them staple) the pages together at the top.
7. Then, staple the flipbook to the top of the tree page.
8. After flipping through each step, you will see an illustration of trees from the story.

Name: _____

TREE FLIPBOOK

Directions:

1. Gather the flipbook pieces.
2. Cut around the solid, black line.
3. Write each step (1-3) how trees grow.
4. Stack the flipbook pages in order with the How Trees Grow title page on top.
5. Have your teacher staple the pages together at the top.
6. Then, staple your flipbook to the top of the tree page.

HOW TREES GROW



TREE FLIPBOOK

Blank handwriting practice lines for the word "first".

first

Blank handwriting practice lines for the word "first".

first

TREE FLIPBOOK

Blank handwriting practice lines for the word "First".

First

Blank handwriting practice lines for the word "First".

First

TREE FLIPBOOK

first

first

TREE FLIPBOOK

First

First

TREE FLIPBOOK

Blank writing area with two sets of primary handwriting lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) and a large space at the bottom containing the word "second" written in cursive.

second

TREE FLIPBOOK

Blank writing area with two sets of primary-ruled lines (top and middle) and a large unruled space at the bottom.

Second

TREE FLIPBOOK

second

TREE FLIPBOOK

Second

TREE FLIPBOOK

Blank writing area with two sets of primary handwriting lines (solid top and bottom lines, dashed middle line) and a large open space for drawing or additional writing.

third

TREE FLIPBOOK

Blank writing area with two sets of primary-ruled lines (top and middle) and a large unruled space at the bottom. The word "Third" is written in the unruled space.

Third

TREE FLIPBOOK

third

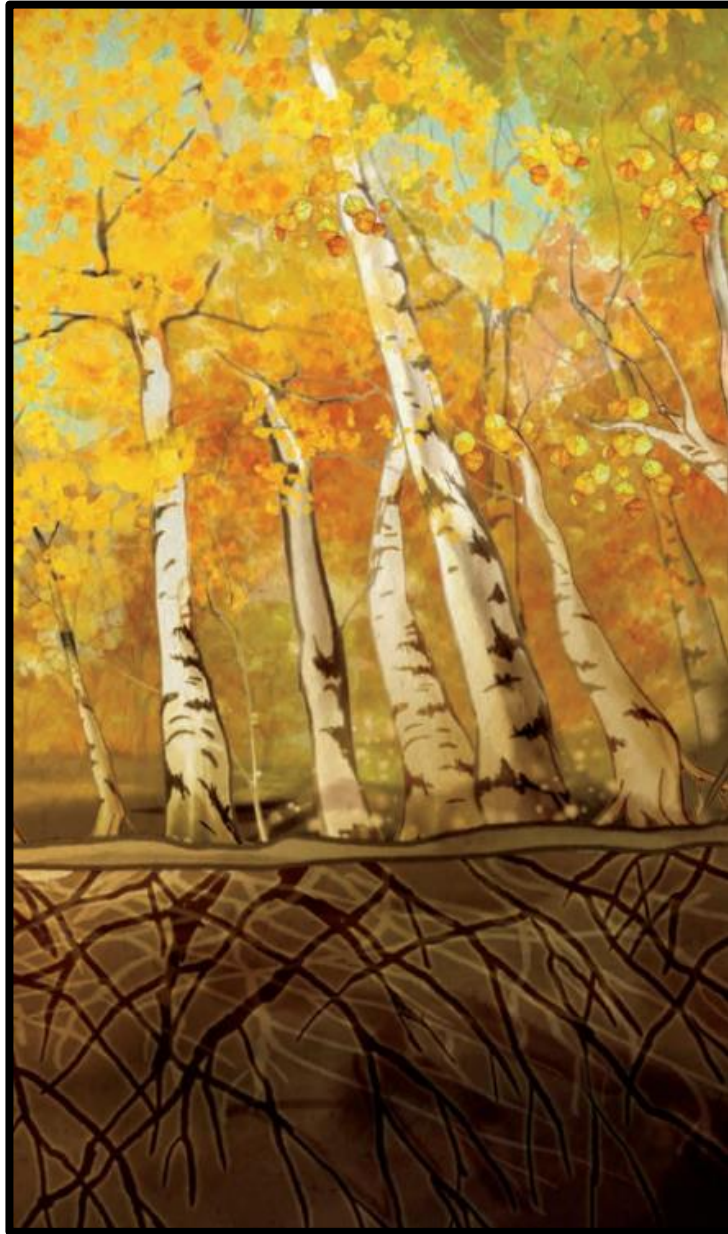
TREE FLIPBOOK

Third

Name: _____

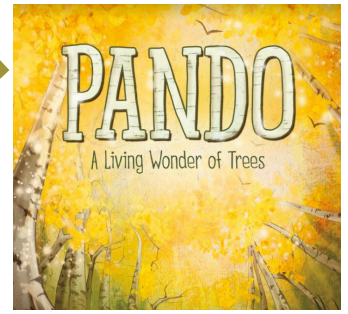
TREE FLIPBOOK

STAPLE FLIPBOOK COVER HERE



STEM ACTIVITY

design a home for birdy



Next Generation Science Standards:

- 3-5-ETS1-1.
- 3-5-ETS1-2.
- 3-5-ETS1-3.
- MS-ETS1-1.
- MS-ETS1-2.
- MS-ETS1-3.
- MS-ETS1-4.

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Crayons / colored pencils / markers
- Access to colored printer
- For each group: Pipe cleaners (leaf colored), popsicle sticks, playdough, & colored copies of the bird

Name: _____

STEM challenge

DESIGN A HOME FOR BIRDY

THE CHALLENGE

- Build a home for birdy using the materials given to you. The home must:
 - Look like a tree
 - Support the weight of the paper bird
 - Be tall enough that your bird does not touch the ground

PLANSTOP

What materials will you use and in what way will you use them?

PLAN

Draw and / or describe your plan...

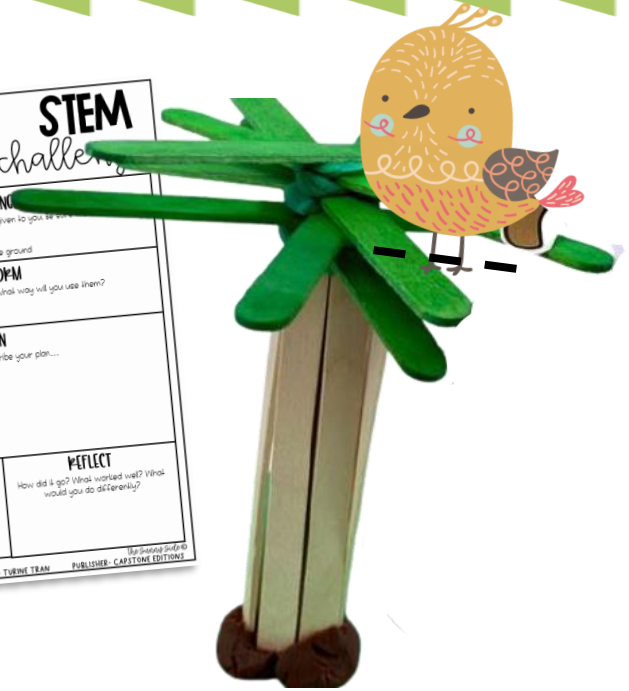
THINK

How will you be sure your bird will sit in the tree without falling?

REFLECT

How did it go? What worked well? What would you do differently?

THE INSPIRING STUDY BY
AUTHOR: KATE ALLEN FOX ILLUSTRATOR: TURINE TRAN PUBLISHER: CAPSTONE EDITIONS



Step by step to do list:

1. Decide student groups prior to this activity (groups of no more than 4 students generally work best).
2. Copy the STEM activity page on white copy paper
3. Print the birds in color and gather the rest of the supplies (listed above).
4. Explain that the goal today is to design and build a tree that allows the bird to hang without touching the ground.
5. Distribute the STEM page to students and allow them to work through the questions in their small group.
6. Give each group the materials they need and allow time to create.
7. Reflect on the STEM experiment and allow students an opportunity to share with other groups.

Name: _____

STEM

challenge

DESIGN A HOME FOR BIRDY

THE CHALLENGE

Build a home for birdy using the materials given to you. Be sure the home...

- Looks like a tree
- Supports the weight of the paper bird
- Is tall enough that your bird does not touch the ground

BRAINSTORM

What materials will you use and in what way will you use them?

PLAN

Draw and / or describe your plan...

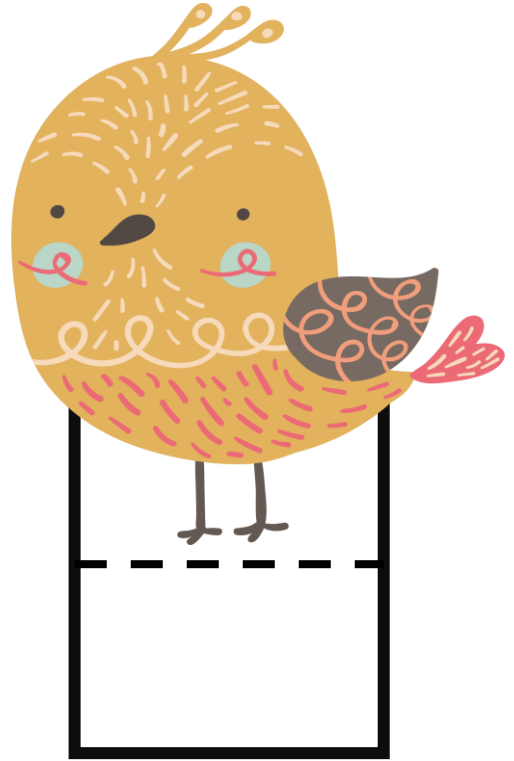
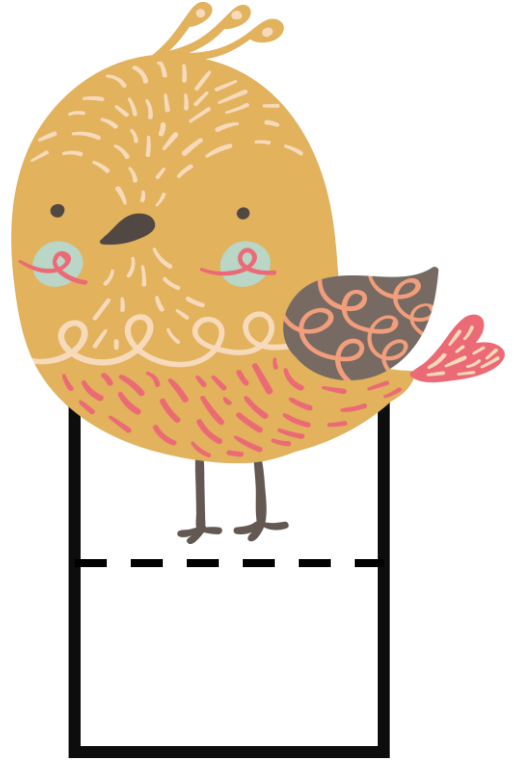
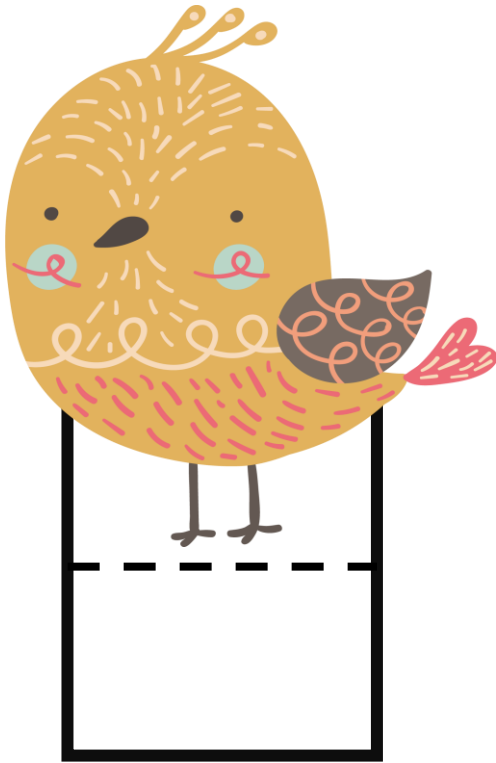
THINK

How will you be sure your bird will sit in the tree without falling?

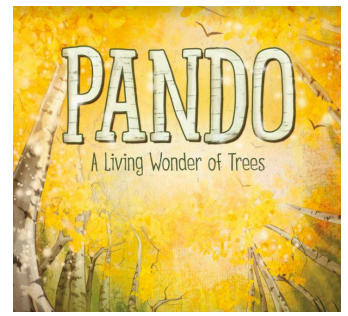
REFLECT

How did it go? What worked well? What would you do differently?

STEM PRINTABLES



SOCIAL SCIENCE ACTIVITY



Mapping out aspen trees

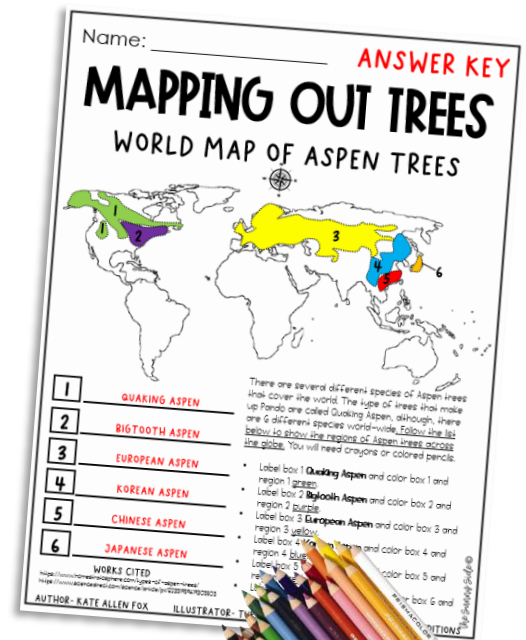


Common Core State Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.7
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.7
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.7

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Crayons / colored pencils / markers



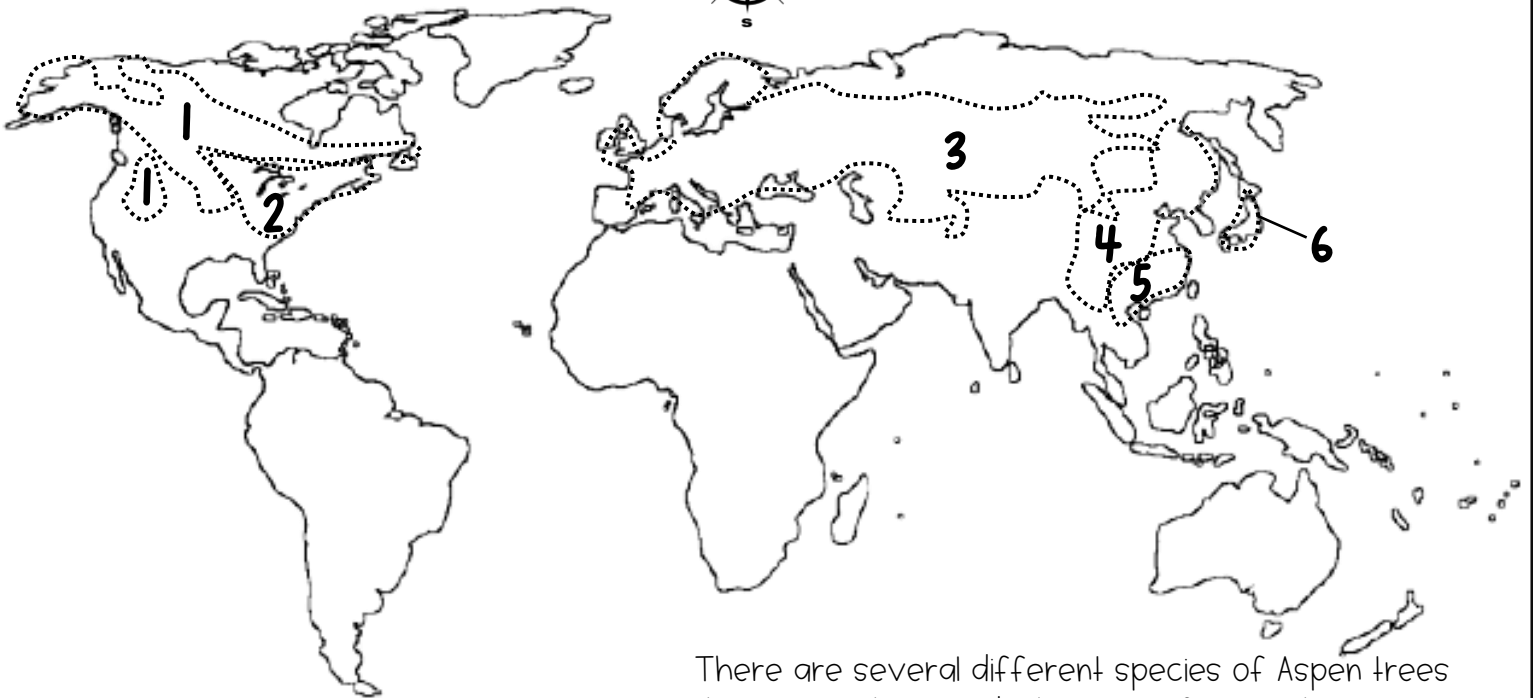
Step by step to do list:

1. Copy the maps on white copy paper.
2. Distribute maps to students.
3. Encourage students to read the paragraph on Aspen trees around the world.
4. They will color each region of the map a specific color to represent a different species of Aspen tree and label the map key as stated.
5. Students can share and compare their thinking in partnerships or in small groups.

Name: _____

MAPPING OUT TREES

WORLD MAP OF ASPEN TREES



| | |
|---|-------|
| 1 | _____ |
| 2 | _____ |
| 3 | _____ |
| 4 | _____ |
| 5 | _____ |
| 6 | _____ |

There are several different species of Aspen trees that cover the world. The type of trees that make up Pando are called Quaking Aspen, although, there are 6 different species world-wide. Follow the list below to show the regions of Aspen trees across the globe. You will need crayons or colored pencils.

- Label box 1 **Quaking Aspen** and color box 1 and region 1 green.
- Label box 2 **Bigtooth Aspen** and color box 2 and region 2 purple.
- Label box 3 **European Aspen** and color box 3 and region 3 yellow.
- Label box 4 **Korean Aspen** and color box 4 and region 4 blue.
- Label box 5 **Chinese Aspen** and color box 5 and region 5 red.
- Label box 6 **Japanese Aspen** and color box 6 and region 6 orange.

WORKS CITED

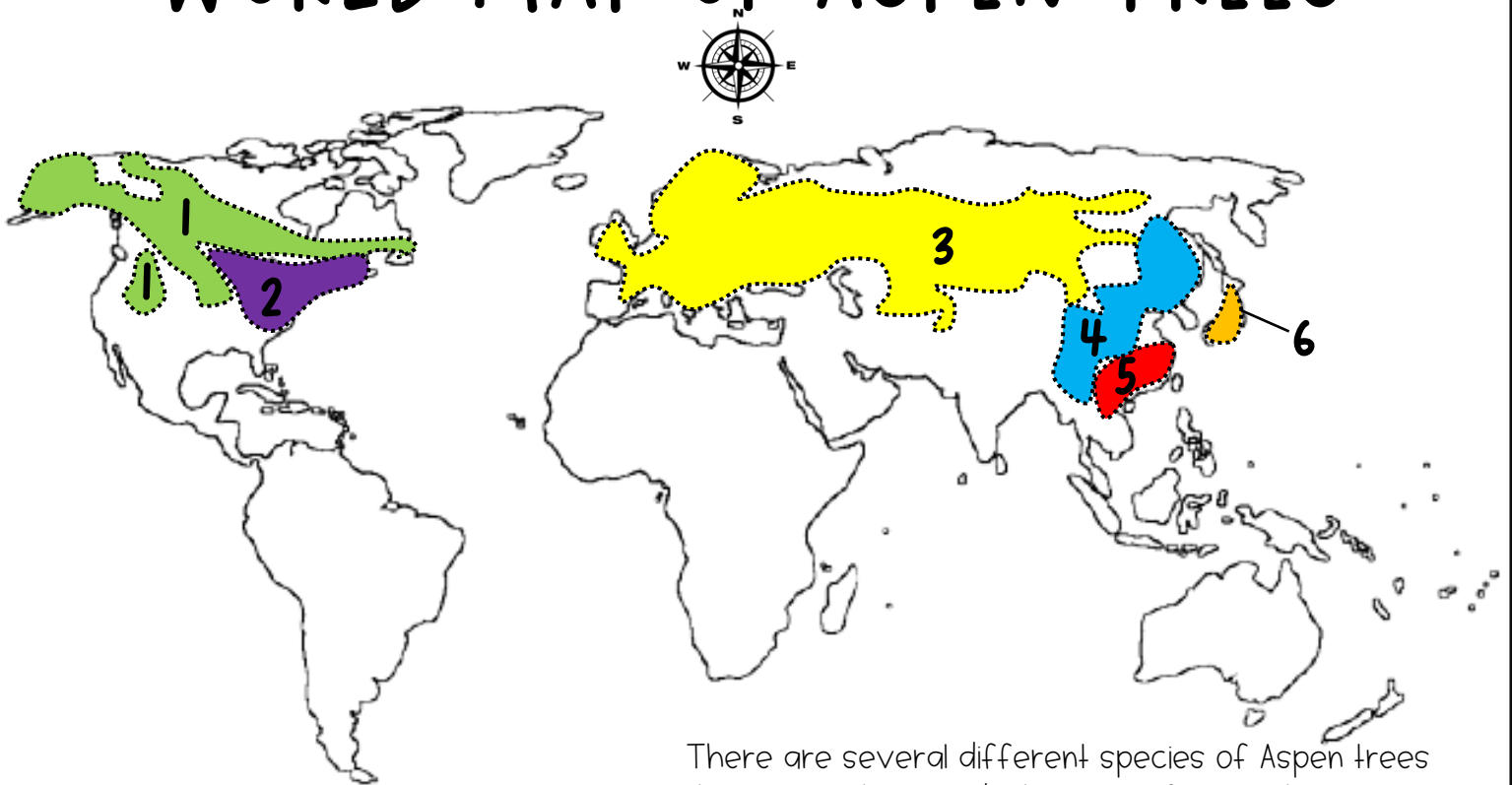
<https://www.homestratosphere.com/types-of-aspen-trees/>
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2351989419305803>

Name: _____

ANSWER KEY

MAPPING OUT TREES

WORLD MAP OF ASPEN TREES



- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1 | QUAKING ASPEN |
| 2 | BIGTOOTH ASPEN |
| 3 | EUROPEAN ASPEN |
| 4 | KOREAN ASPEN |
| 5 | CHINESE ASPEN |
| 6 | JAPANESE ASPEN |

There are several different species of Aspen trees that cover the world. The type of trees that make up Pando are called Quaking Aspen, although, there are 6 different species world-wide. Follow the list below to show the regions of Aspen trees across the globe. You will need crayons or colored pencils.

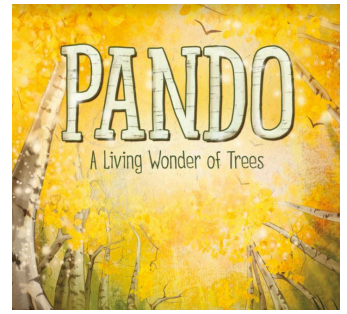
- Label box 1 Quaking Aspen and color box 1 and region 1 green.
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- Label box 3 European Aspen and color box 3 and region 3 yellow.
- Label box 4 Korean Aspen and color box 4 and region 4 blue.
- Label box 5 Chinese Aspen and color box 5 and region 5 red.
- Label box 6 Japanese Aspen and color box 6 and region 6 orange.

WORKS CITED

<https://www.homestratosphere.com/types-of-aspen-trees/>
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2351989419305803>

ART ACTIVITY

tree root art



Common Core State Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.5

You will need:

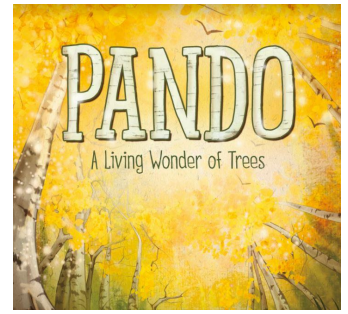
- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Crayons / colored pencils / markers
- Colored construction paper (brown, green, red, yellow, orange)



Step by step to do list:

1. Copy the tree templates on coordinating construction paper or on white copy paper for students to color.
2. Show students the picture samples.
3. Have students cut out the templates and glue the pieces together.
4. Assemble and glue the templates according to the pictures.
5. Use a brown marker or crayon to connect the roots in the brown part of the construction paper.
6. Glue the PANDO title on the art project.

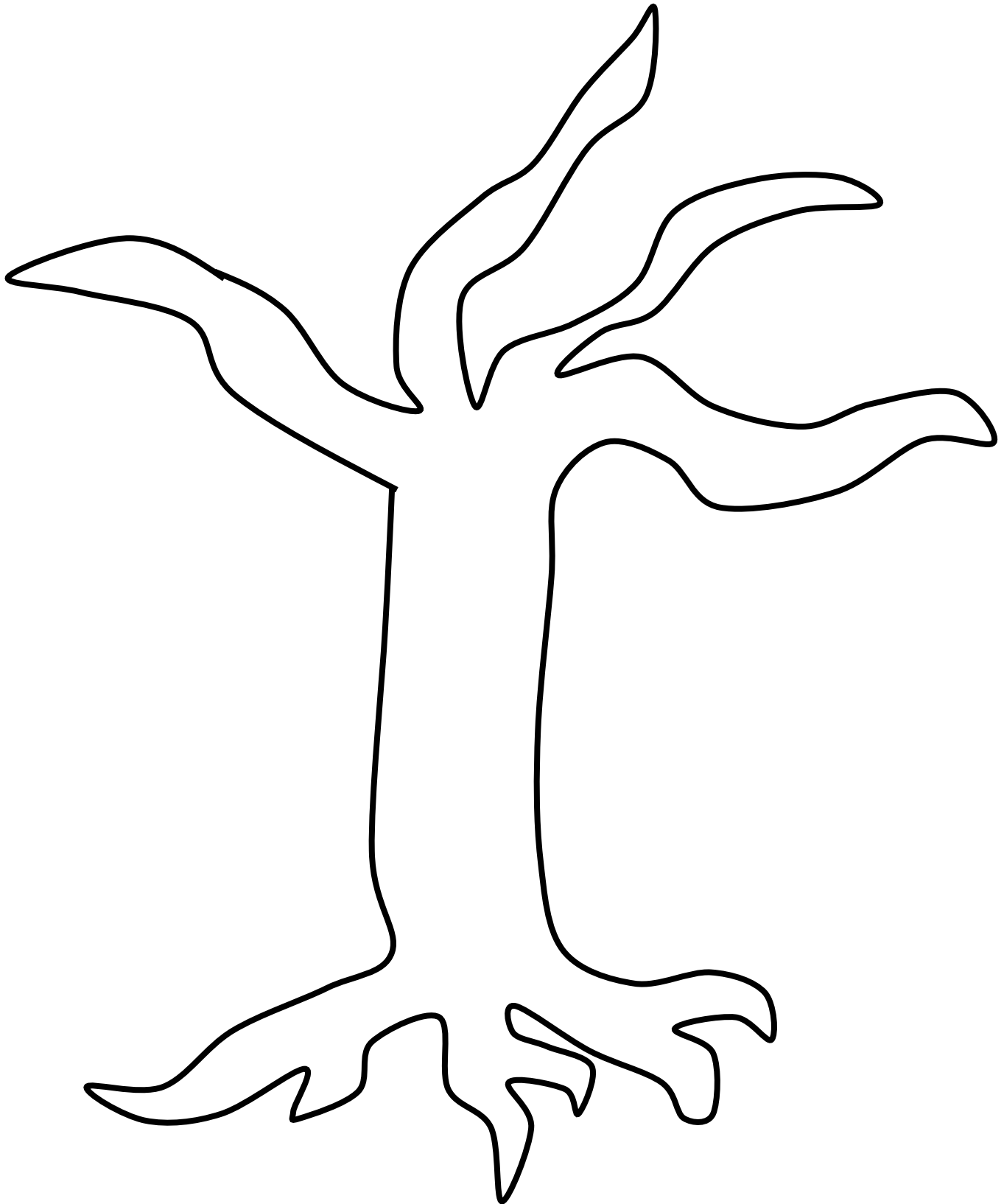
TREE ROOT ART



Copy tree templates on colored construction paper or white paper for students to color.

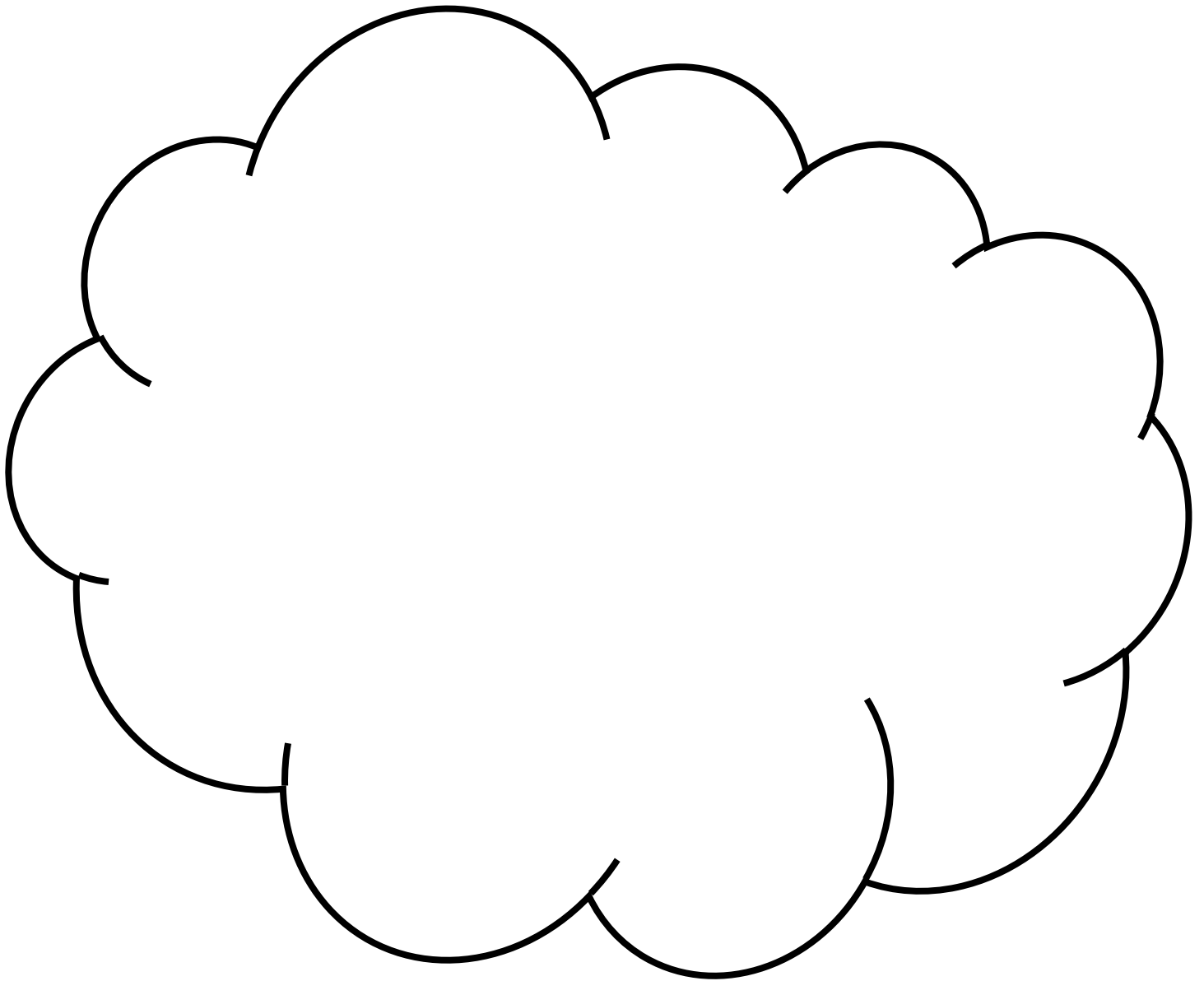
TREE TEMPLATES

Copy on brown construction paper



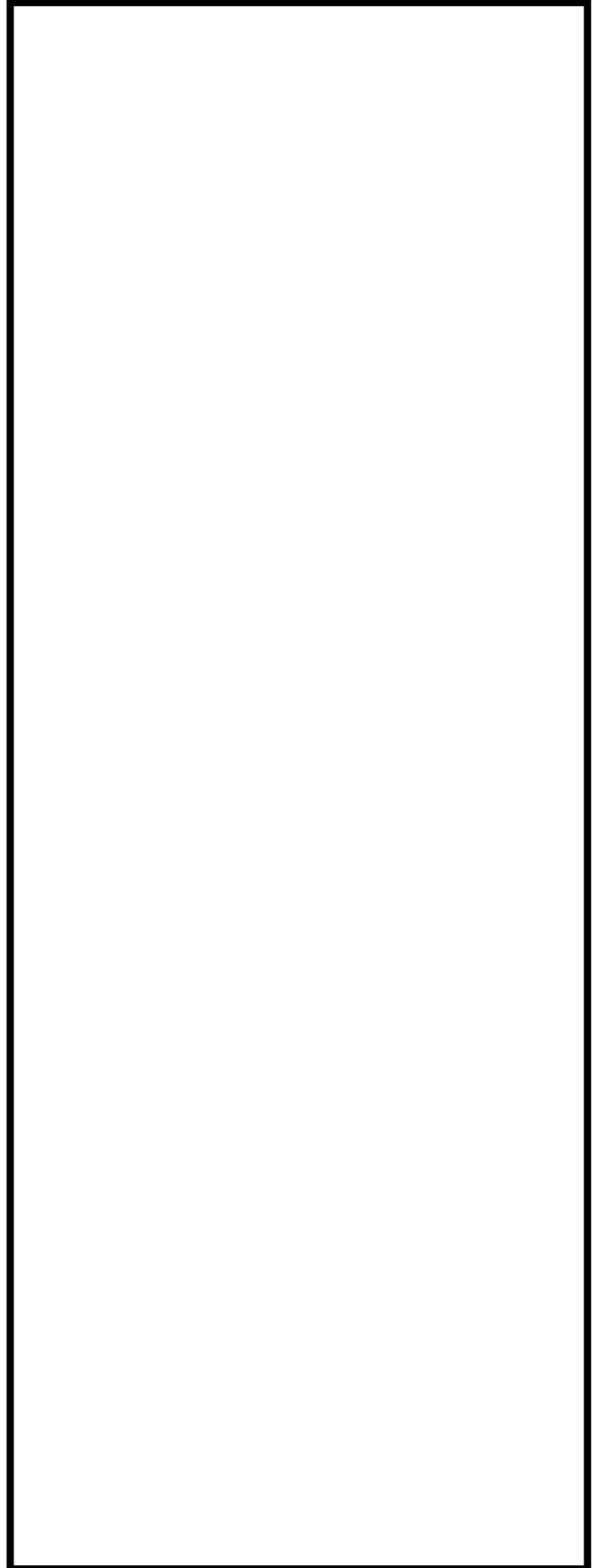
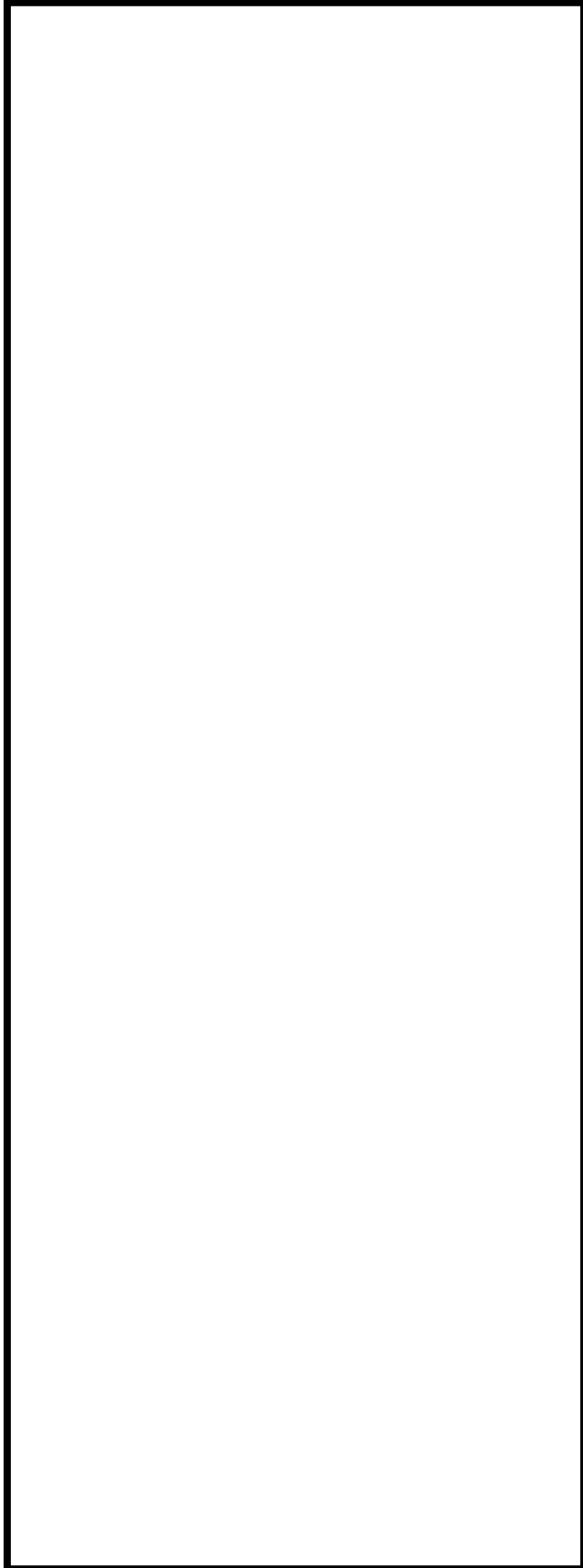
TREE TEMPLATES

Copy on green / yellow / red / orange
construction paper



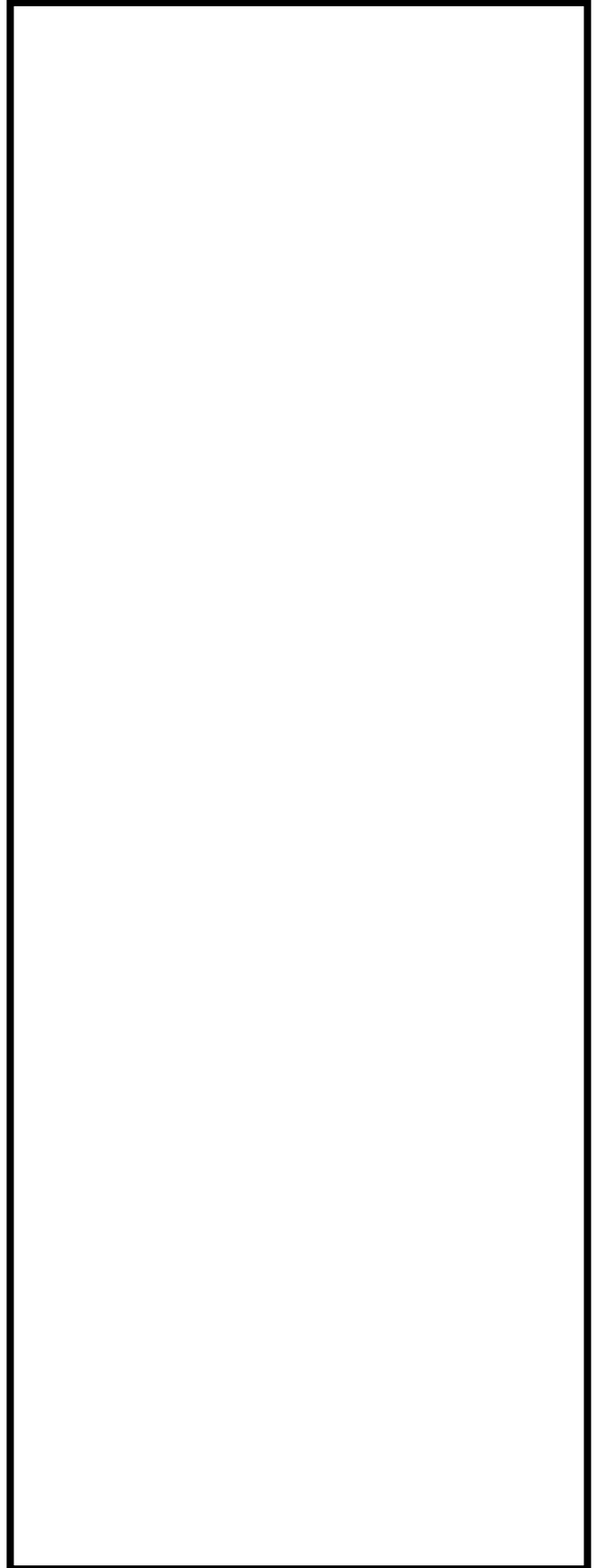
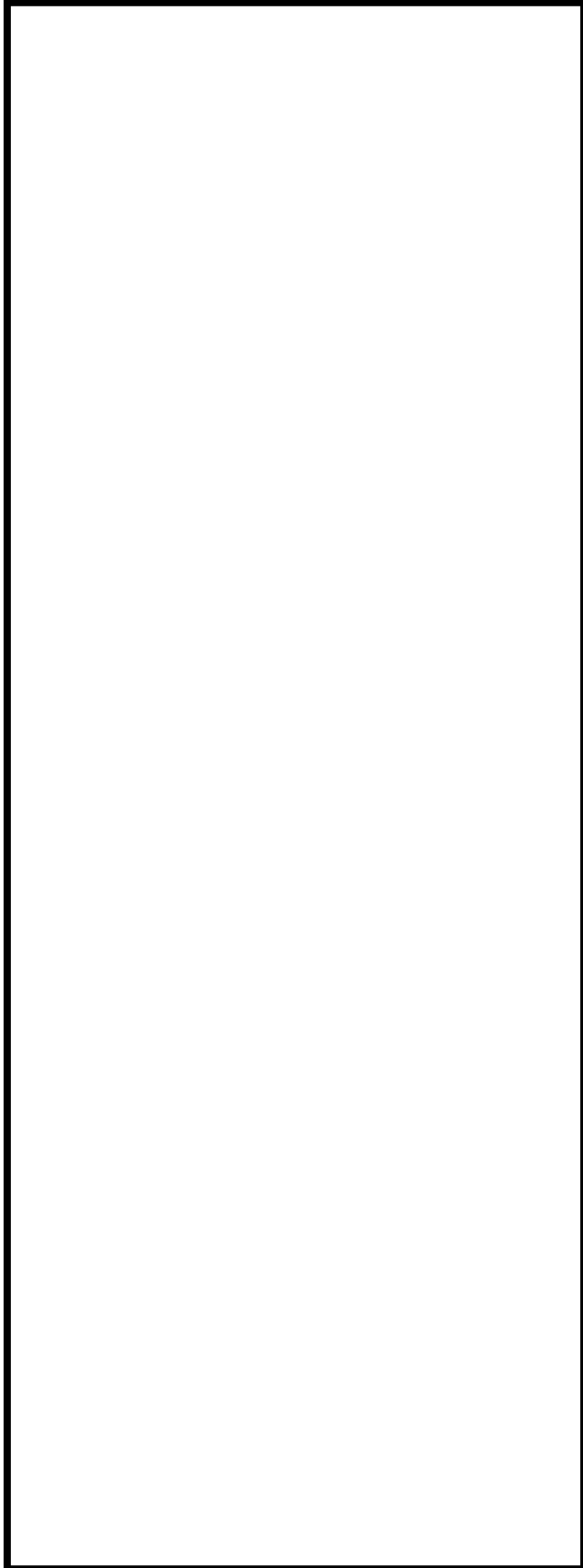
TREE TEMPLATES

Copy on green construction paper



TREE TEMPLATES

Copy on brown construction paper



TREE TEMPLATES

Copy in color



CREDITS PAGE

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Kate Allen Fox lives in southern California with her husband and two sons. After a career as a public health professional, she combined her passions for research and writing and began creating picture books about science and nature. Her work has appeared in several publications, including The New York Times. Kate hosts school visits and in person / virtual presentations. Please visit her website for more information!



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The designer— Molly D'Polito



AT THE SUNNY SIDE





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