

# Tree Time

GRADES 1-4  
AGES: 6-9

Teacher(s):

Duration: 30-60 minutes (depends on grade level/age group)

## 21st Century Skills

- Critical Thinking    Creative Thinking    Collaborating    Initiative  
 Communicating    Media Literacy    Informative Literacy  
 Tech Literacy    Flexibility    Social Skills    Leadership  
 Productivity

## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do trees change through time?

## TRANSITION

Read & discuss *The Adventures of Shiko and Walter* storybook focusing on the life cycle of Walter, decaying water oak.

## LESSON SEQUENCE

### I. Life Cycle Collage Exercises

1. Discuss using graphics the physical changes trees experience through their life cycles. Incorporate the differences between the life spans and environments of different types of oaks.
2. Describe and model the collage-making process.
3. Direct students to place construction paper pieces on the tree-stenciled paper showing how a tree grows, dies, and decays.

### II. Seasonal Collage Exercises

1. Discuss using graphics the physical changes trees experience through the seasons. Incorporate differences between evergreen and deciduous trees.
2. Direct students to express with construction paper pieces on the tree-stenciled paper what happens to trees during spring, summer, fall, and winter.

### III. Collage Creation

Direct students to make their own tree collages with construction paper pieces glued onto tree-stenciled paper.

## CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED

### English Language Arts:

CCSS ELA: Literacy. RL

### Science:

NGSS:LS1, LS2, LS4

### Visual Arts:

NCAS: VA CR 2.1, CN 10.  
RE 7.1

## Materials List

*Karen provides:*

- *The Adventures of Shiko and Walter* storybook
- Life cycle & seasonal change graphics
- Life cycle & seasonal change instruction points
- Tree trunk stencil

*Teacher provides:*

- Paper with stenciled tree trunks
- Construction paper pieces
- Glue
- Scissors (optional)

## Assessment

Students share their collages and explain how they reflect aspects of a tree's life.