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## TREE JOURNAL

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### Day 1: Get to know your tree today!

Walk all the way around it if you can, looking up and down and all around it. Introduce your tree in this first journal entry by describing its shape. Note things you observe, such as: does it have leaves or needles? Is it tall or small in comparison to things around it? Draw a picture of your tree, focusing especially on the overall form, and if possible, include a photo.

### My tree...

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### Drawing of my tree



## TREE JOURNAL

### Day 2: Have a closer look at the bark of the tree, what do you notice?

Is it all the same color, or do you notice any differences? Touch the bark, how does it feel? Is it all the same, or do you notice differences in the bark? Add a page to your tree journal that includes a description of the bark, a sketch, and a photo if possible.

**The bark of  
my tree...**

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**Drawing of the bark**



## TREE JOURNAL

### Day 3: Examine the leaves of your tree today.

Look closely at the leaves on your tree and describe the leaves. Some questions that can help your descriptions include: What shape are the leaves? How are they attached to the tree? Are there only leaves or also blossoms on your tree? If you can, take a leaf from the tree and look very closely (this can be either one from the tree or one that is on the ground). Are there patterns in the leaves? Do you see lines in the leaf? Do you notice any specific details about the leaf, for example, does it have bumps or hairs or holes? Trace the leaf in your journal if you can and use the outline to make a sketch of the leaf. Enhance the journal entry with a photo and / or a leaf rubbing! To make a leaf rubbing, place the leaf under the paper, and slowly rub the paper with a crayon held sidewise. The rubbing should reveal the shape and texture of the leaf.

**Make the sketch of the leaf on one part of the paper. Rub the leaf on the other part!**

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## TREE JOURNAL

### Day 4: Looking for roots and shoots.

Today you are going to have a close look to your tree's body and to the roots that keep it attached to the soil. What are they like? Are there any shoots? In which ways are they similar? In which ways are they different? Can you see your tree's roots? How do the roots compare to other trees around it? What else do you see? Describe what you have observed about your tree and make a drawing of what you have described.

As well as  
leaves, my  
tree has...

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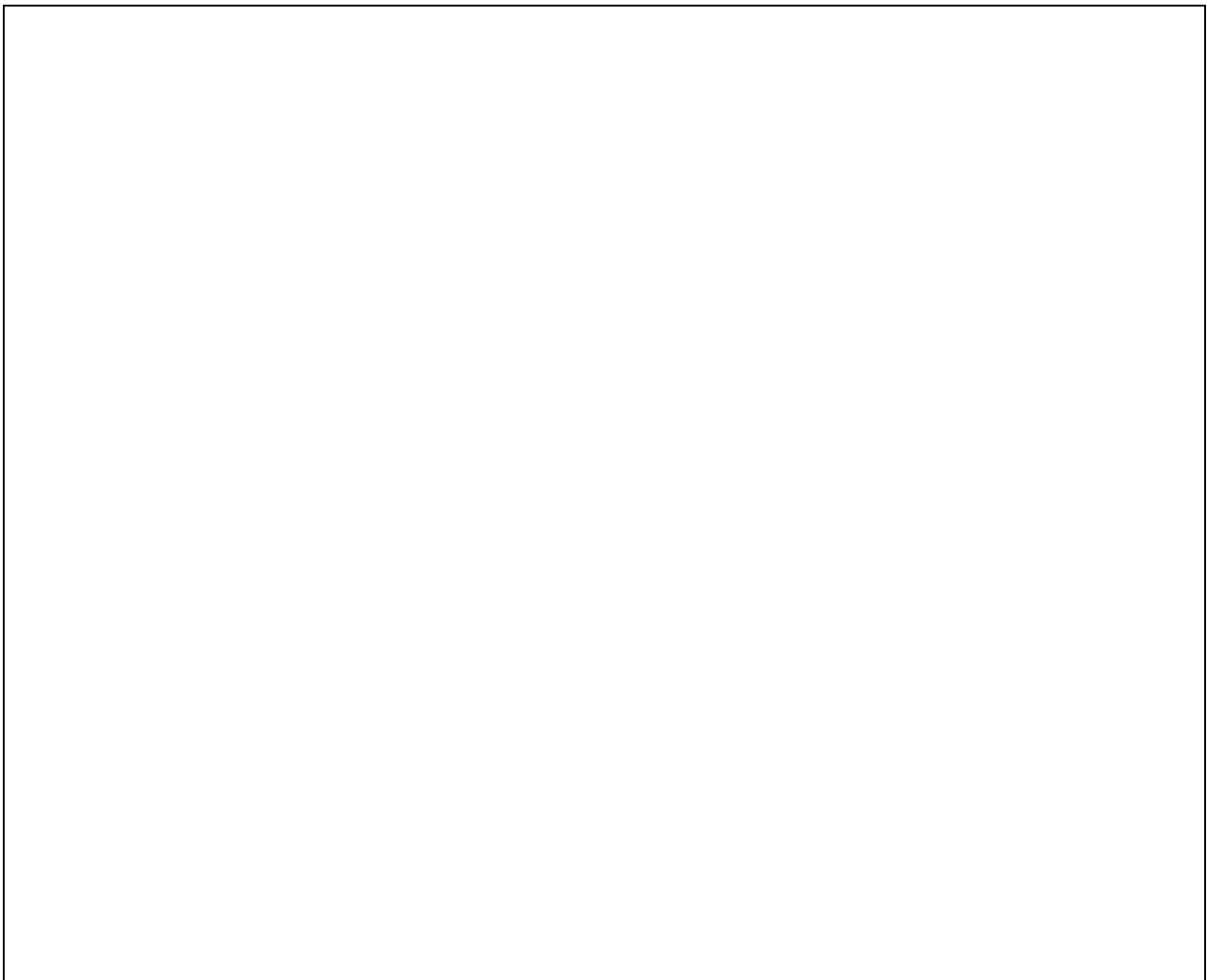
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Drawing of





## IDENTIFYING TREES

Now that you have spent some time getting to know your tree, it's time to give it a name! In fact, your tree will hopefully have **three names** by the end of this activity. Did you know that plant and animal species all have scientific names in Latin? This is because Latin used to be the most common language spoken by scientists, and the tradition of scientific names being in Latin has continued. These are combined with names that are in different languages as well, and today you will try to discover both the Latin and German names for your tree. And once you have done that, you will also create a unique name for your tree!

**You will need:** Your tree journal  
Pen, pencil, crayon  
Access to one of the below dichotomous keys

**What to do:** Your challenge is to see if you can discover the Latin name of your tree, as well as the commonly used German name. How can you do that?

- TIPS:**
- Use the data you have collected about your tree to try to identify the species, including its shape, leaves, bark, and any flowers or buds. There are several types of guides that can help:
    - Centre de Jeunesse Hollenfels offers a PDF dichotomous key for local trees and shrubs:  
[https://hollenfels.snj.lu/sites/default/files/publications/Bestimmungsschlüssel\\_Hollenfels\\_13\\_06\\_petit.pdf](https://hollenfels.snj.lu/sites/default/files/publications/Bestimmungsschlüssel_Hollenfels_13_06_petit.pdf)
    - Baumkunde is a Baumschule in Germany that offers an online identification tool for trees:  
<https://www.baumkunde.de/baumbestimmung/>
  - Once you have possibly identified your tree and discovered the Latin and German names for it, it is time to give the tree a name that captures its uniqueness! Use the descriptions you have documented in your journal, and reflect upon what makes your tree special. Try to think of a creative name that “fits” your tree well!

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## LEAF BREATH

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<b>You will need:</b>	Leaf	Rock
	Water	Pen, pencil, crayon
	Bowl and glass	Straw

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**What to do:** You may have heard that trees are important because they produce oxygen. One of the contributions of trees is that they convert carbon dioxide to oxygen, in a complex process called photosynthesis. Plants also breathe, and in this process they do exactly the opposite, meaning they absorb oxygen and produce carbon dioxide. Have you ever wondered how this works? Although you cannot hear them breathing, nor can you see them photosynthesizing, you can carry out an experiment to try to observe the gas exchange!

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- TIPS:**
- If you can reach one, take a leaf from your tree one morning. (Do not take one from the ground, because this investigation works best with “active” leaves, meaning leaves that are on a tree). If you can’t take a leaf from your own tree, choose a leaf that is similar in size and shape.
  - Fill a large bowl with lukewarm water, and place the leaf in the bottom of the bowl with a rock on top, to keep the leaf from floating up.
  - Leave the bowl undisturbed for at least 4 hours, ideally in a sunny spot inside, and then look closely at the leaf, do you notice anything different? You might be able to see that there are small bubbles on the edges of the leaf, and possibly also on the edges of the bowl. What do you think they are?
  - Now, place a straw inside a glass and blow through it. Does anything similar happen? Compare the results.
  - Document both investigations with a drawing and describe your observations.
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## LEAF BREATH

### *Investigation #1*

### *Investigation #2*

## HOW DOES WATER MOVE THROUGH A LEAF?

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**You will need:** Leaves  
Water  
Red or blue food coloring

A glass  
Pen, pencil, crayon

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**What to do:** You are going to investigate how water moves through the leaves. To better see the movement of the water, you will add food coloring to it.

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- TIPS:**
- Collect a few leaves, and be sure the ends are cut cleanly.
  - Put the leaf in a glass, so that its stem is down and in a few centimeters of water.
  - Add red or blue food coloring to the water.
  - Document the investigation with a photo or a drawing, and place the glass where it can be undisturbed.
  - Check back every day and document any changes you see.
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**HOW DOES WATER MOVE THROUGH A LEAF?**

OBSERVATION GRID		
Date & Day	Observations	Drawing




**TREE BARK PRINT 1**

**KEEP A RECORD OF YOUR INVESTIGATION – \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>CHECK</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>DESCRIPTION</b> (What features do you see?)					
<b>NAME</b> (Do you know what the tree is called?)					
<b>LOCATION</b> (Think of a way to document the tree location)					
<b>ECOSYSTEM</b> (What do you see linked to the tree? Birds, insects, other plants?)					

