



Trees Change

Maggie's Activity Pack

Name _____

It is summer.

We see green trees.

Then it is fall.

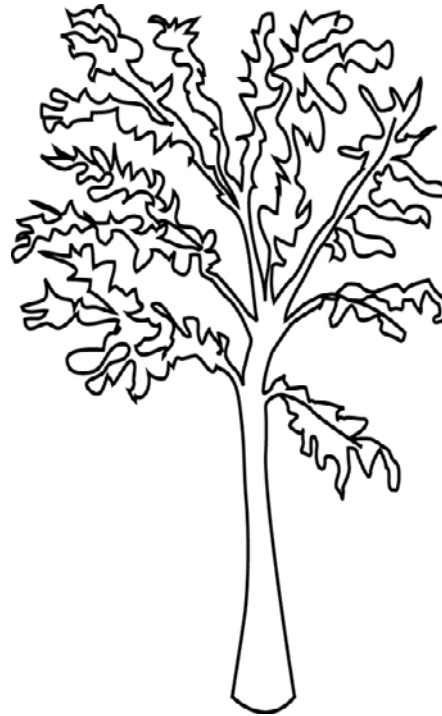
There is not as much sun.

The air gets cool.

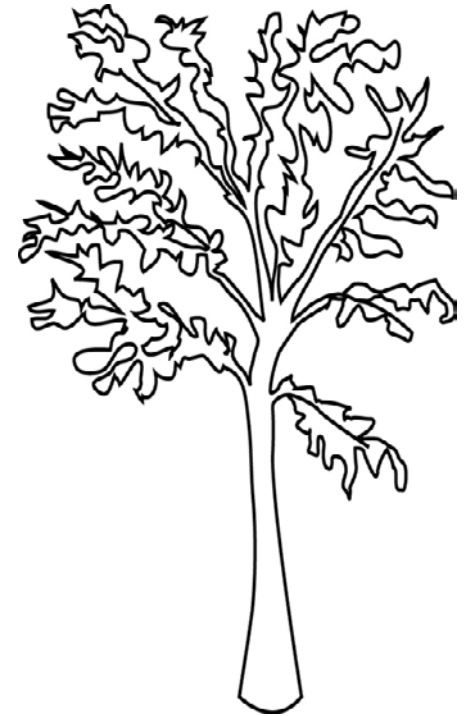
A leaf will change its color.

Will it be red, orange, or yellow?

Color a summer tree.



Color a fall tree.



Dear Colleague,

Welcome back to another exciting year of activities brought to you by your friends at Maggie's Earth Adventures. We have a bevy of brilliant topics to offer you and also hope you will share any of your needs with us. One of the most exciting projects is one we started last year, Maggie's Big Home found at www.maggiesbighome.com. Here we offer tips and activities for early childhood educators. You may find some of these helpful to you as you field questions from parents or look for accompanying ideas. We hope you will check out our companion program, especially because now we are integrating many of our Emergent activities with our tips on Maggie's Big Home. Please sign-on!

Many of you use SMART Boards or Promethean Boards in your classroom. We invite you to rewrite any of our activities to fit your needs. You can even record yourself reading the text at an appropriate rate and have children chorally read with you. You have so many unique ideas – please feel free to adapt our material to your creative teaching.

Two of the key factors this week are changing leaves and colors. Use the idea that diminishing sunlight hours are a big factor as leaves turn from green to red, orange, or yellow. You can have children chart the time the sun comes up in the morning and sets at night. This gives them a heightened sense of how our Earth changes throughout the year. While not all children will readily understand the daily changes, your chart will show them monthly changes. This will be meaningful over the long run.

The other teaching opportunity is the idea of leaf color. What a “natural” way to help your young learners identify color words. They can collect leaves and write the color of each one beside it. If children are not quite ready to do this, provide words they can cut out and glue next to each leaf. For more ideas see www.maggiesbighome.com.

I also like to take the opportunity at the beginning of each school year to remind you to make that first call or note home a positive one. This sets the stage for good family/teacher interactions for the entire year. I found this always helped!

Happy teaching,
Dr. Kathy

Goals:

Children read a level-appropriate text about how leaves change color. They color two pictures: a tree in the summer and a tree in the fall. Follow-up activities described in the Dear Colleague letter include keeping track of sunlight hours and learning color words. This activity is available on the emergent, primary, and intermediate levels and is aligned with Content Standard C, Life Science of the National Science Standards and with the “Integration of Knowledge and Ideas” strand of the Reading Informational Text section of the ELA Common Core.