



TREE DISCOVERY

Trees are an important part of our world. They help keep our air clean and our ecosystems healthy. They provide habitats for all sorts of insect, bird and other animals. The wood for our houses, the paper we use, and many of the fruits and nuts we eat come from trees. Even the sap of trees is useful as food for insects and making syrup for our breakfast pancakes. Find out more about trees as you work through the materials and activities in this kit.

1 Not all trees are alike! Learn about the 2 main types of trees: deciduous and evergreen. Do a walk about and find examples of each.

- **Take a few blank pieces of paper and a crayon outside with you; make some rubbings of the different types of barks and tree leaves you find.**
- **Pick a tree and try your hand at *Estimating Tree Height*.**

2 Investigate *Wood Density*. How does density affect buoyancy and wood hardness?

3 Compare and contrast the wood patterning of the different plank and tree “cookie” specimens that are provided.

4 Identify the parts of a tree and the role each part plays in tree survival.

5 Dive deeper into the inner parts of a tree as you work through the *Tree Ring Discovery* booklet. Learn more about why a tree produces rings and what the ring patterns can tell you about the tree and its growing conditions.

6 Take a *Great Greenery Survey* of your yard or a green area in your community. What forms of life do the trees you see support?