



EduTrend Contents

P4C · NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT · PRIMARY

Does the Tree Matter?

A walk or a picture of a tree starts an enquiry into how we treat living things

Ages 5–7

Level: Foundation

30 minutes

Whole class circle · up
to 30

Activity 01

Inside: activity at a glance · step-by-step session plan · facilitator notes · 3 pupil worksheets · assessment checklist

ACTIVITY 01 · AT A GLANCE

Does the Tree Matter?

Children look at a real tree outside or a large photo of one. They notice its bark, leaves and the creatures that live in it. The facilitator asks whether it is OK to carve names into the bark or break branches. Children suggest questions and vote on one, such as “Does a tree matter even if it cannot feel?” The enquiry uses a talking object in a circle.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session pupils can:

- observe a living thing closely;
- ask a question about nature;
- give a reason;
- listen to others.

KEY WORDS

tree · alive · feel · matter · care · nature

CURRICULUM LINKS

Science: living things. PSHE: caring for the world. Art: observational drawing.

1**STIMULUS**

Share something to think about

2**THINK**

Quiet thinking time

3**QUESTION**

Create and choose a question

4**ENQUIRE**

Reason together

5**BUILD**

Agree, disagree, add

6**REFLECT**

Last words

Materials (per class)

- A tree outside or a tree photo
- Magnifying glasses (optional)
- Question and thinking-move cards
- Worksheets 1, 2 and 3

Before the session

- Read the stimulus and note possible concepts.
- Prepare question and thinking-move cards.
- Set out a circle so everyone can see each other.
- Print the worksheets.

SAFETY

Supervise outdoor observation and avoid touching plants or insects that could sting.

ACTIVITY 01 · SESSION PLAN

Step by step

Stay neutral: ask for reasons, examples and counter-examples rather than giving your own view.

Time	What happens	Say or ask
0–5 min Stimulus	Look closely at a tree or a tree photo.	<i>“What did you notice?”</i>
5–12 min Questions	Pupils create questions in pairs and vote on one.	<i>“Which question is most interesting to talk about?”</i>
12–26 min Enquiry	Enquire into the chosen question, building on each other’s ideas.	<i>“Does a tree matter even if it cannot feel?”</i>
26–30 min Last words	Each person says one last thought or passes.	<i>“Has your thinking changed?”</i>

CHALLENGE CARD (print or copy onto the board)

Give one reason why we should or should not care about a tree.

ACTIVITY 01 · FACILITATOR NOTES

The philosophy in brief

Children's questions about whether plants feel are a natural starting point for thinking about what deserves care.

Looking closely before talking gives every child something to say.

Common ideas to listen for

- "Only animals are alive." Plants are alive too.
- "If it can't feel, anything goes." We can still ask.
- "Nature is only for people." Other creatures depend on it.

Adapting the activity

Support

Use a picture of a tree with animals in it.

Stretch

Ask: does a rock matter?

WORKSHEET 1

My tree

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Draw and label.

My tree

What I saw	Who lives there

WORKSHEET 2

Thinking moves

Use these in the enquiry.

Thinking moves

Thinking move	My example
I agree with... because...	
I disagree with... because...	
An example is...	
A counter-example is...	
Building on what... said...	

WORKSHEET 3

Last words

Before and after.

Is it OK to hurt something that cannot feel pain? Before the enquiry I thought... Now I think... because...

FOR THE TEACHER

Assessment checklist

Use during the session. One sheet covers up to eight pupils; copy as needed.

Pupil	Observes closely	Gives a reason	Listens to others

Suggested codes: W = working towards · E = expected · G = greater depth

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Does the Tree Matter? is a sample activity from the EduTrend Contents P4C Nature and the Environment programme (primary, level: foundation). Every activity in the programme follows the same format: a practical challenge, a clear session plan, facilitator notes and ready-to-print worksheets, so that teachers, club leaders and parents can run it without extra preparation.

Full 15-, 20- and 32-week programmes are available from EduStore at edutrend.org.

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