

Tree Unit: First Grade

A Thematic Teaching Unit

Overview



READING

GLE's

- Using background knowledge to make connections.
- Distinguishing fact from fiction.
- Reciting short poems, rhymes, and songs.

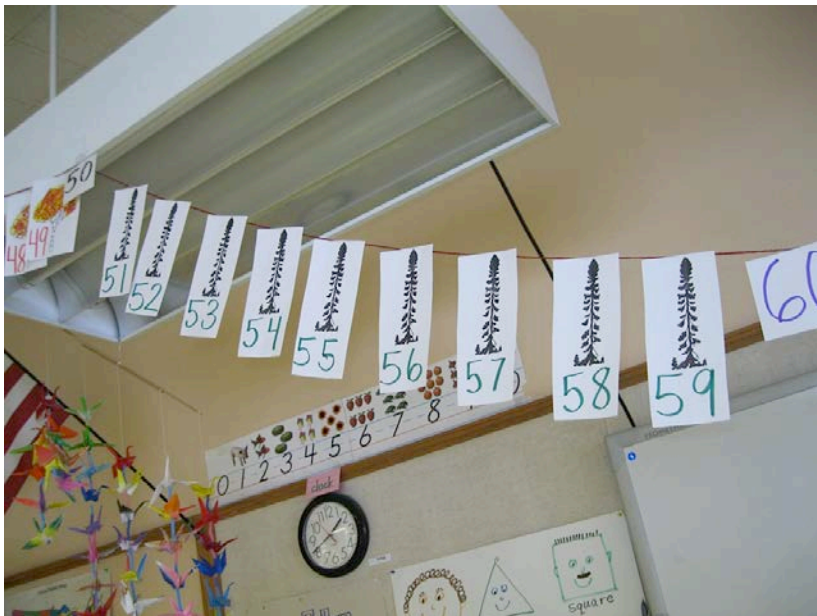
ACTIVITIES

- Make a KWL chart about trees.
- Make a book: *Parts of a Tree* with toilet paper roll, yarn, and tissue paper.
- Discuss: What do the parts of a tree do?
- Read: Johnny Appleseed, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Giving Tree, The Apple Pie Tree, The Red Rose and Paul Bunyan
- Display a variety of books about trees, and animals that live in trees for students to read and view. Collect or study the samples of types of trees in Alaska. Display posters and pictures of trees in the area.
- Read a variety of books to the class, stopping along the way to check for comprehension.
- Sing a variety of songs such as: "Ten Little Leaves, Apple Tree, There Were Two Little Apples, Pine Trees, Trees" and many others.
- Learn tree rhymes.

MATH

GLE'S:

- Counting, recognizing, ordering, and naming numerals 0-30.
- Using concrete objects to answer addition of two single digit numbers.
- Using non-standard units to measure and estimate.
- Comparing two concrete objects using length, weight and capacity.
- Understanding months of the year and seasons as units of measurement.
- Sorting and classifying objects by color, size, and shape.
- Drawing geometric shapes: circles, triangle, square and rectangle.
- Using objects or pictures to explain the solution to a real life problem.
- Identifying, describing and extending a simple pattern.
- Organizing, representing and comparing data on pictographs and tally graphs.
- Describing and extending repeating patterns.



In the photo to the left is an example of a Tree Counting Project done in Meagan Husted's primary classroom in Grayling.

ACTIVITIES

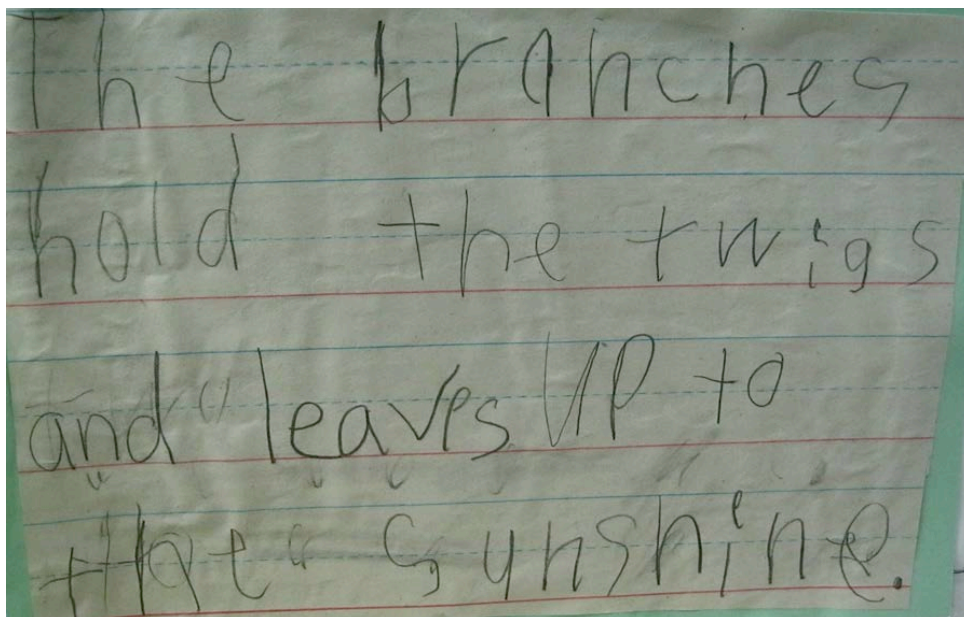
- Talk about how trees grow and count the rings on a tree.
- Count as far as you can until the leaf hits the floor.
- How many pennies will your leaf hold (floating on water)?
- Tree shapes- Make trees out of different shapes.
- Discuss leaf patterning and make different patterns with leaves.
- Measure giant leaves with uni-fix cubes.

SCIENCE

GLE's:

Investigate plants by:

- Identifying stem, roots, leaves, flowers and seeds of various local plants.
- Diagramming the life cycle of a plant.
- Learning the basic concept of photosynthesis.
- Observing, describing and classifying similarities and differences of local flowering plants.
- Conducting experiments with plants involving observation, recording, hypothesis, etc.



The branches
hold the twigs
and leaves up to
the sunshine.

SCIENCE ACTIVITIES

- Collect products made by trees and create collages from magazines.
- Talk about the *Seeds of Trees* and how they reproduce.
- Experiment with placing a stalk of celery in food coloring and water. Review what the different parts of a tree do.
- Learn the parts of a tree.
- Ask: What do we get from trees?
- Study animals that live in trees.
- Study seasons through the cycles of trees.

Personal/Social/Health/Physical:

GLE's:

- Perform various forms of loco-motor movement such as walk, run, slide, gallop, jump, hop, leap, and skip.
- Perform a variety of non-loco-motor skills such as balancing, bending, stretching, rocking, curling, twisting, turning, pushing, pulling, swinging, swaying

ACTIVITIES

- Give the students artificial leaves and let them throw them in the air and try to catch them.
- Leaf races: Students throw their leaves into the air and the class sees whose leaf hits the floor first.
- Leaf dancing: Students express themselves as dancing leaves.

Social Studies/Cultural Awareness and Appreciation:

GLE'S:

- Sharing family traditions.
- Listening to and retelling stories of parents and elders.
- Listing traditional village activities through the seasons.
- Learning a traditional art form.

ACTIVITIES

- Talk about how important firewood is in our community.
- Ask Edna Deacon come in and show the children a basket she has made from birch bark.
- Ask elders to tell stories about getting wood or about anything they have made from wood.

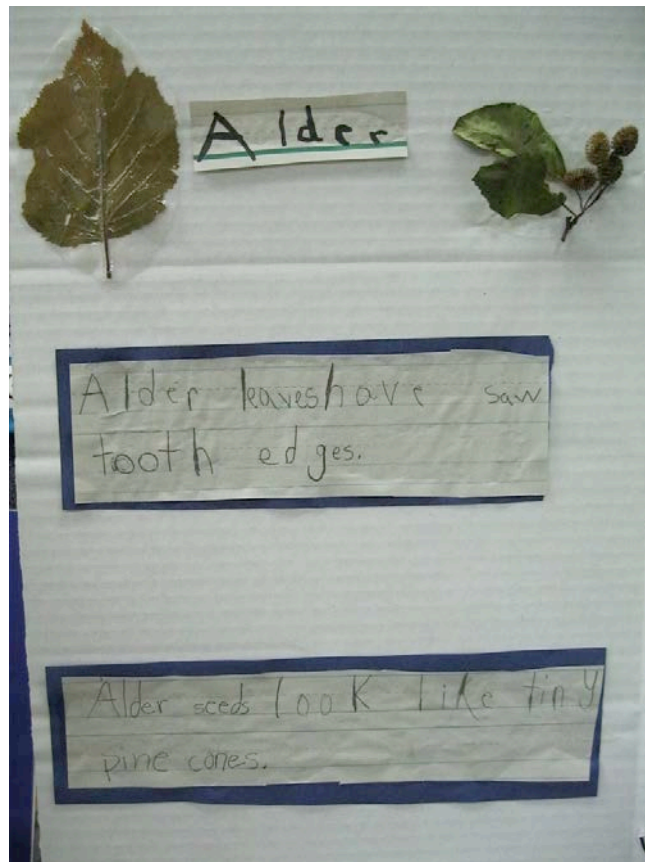
WRITING

GLE's

- Write complete sentences with a subject and a predicate.
- Use a variety of simple sentence structures, and basic rules of punctuation and capitalization in written work.

ACTIVITIES

- Write poetry: I like Trees...
- Writing factual information down for information boards.



The photo to the left shows
"A Tree Information Board" from Meagan Husted's class in Grayling.

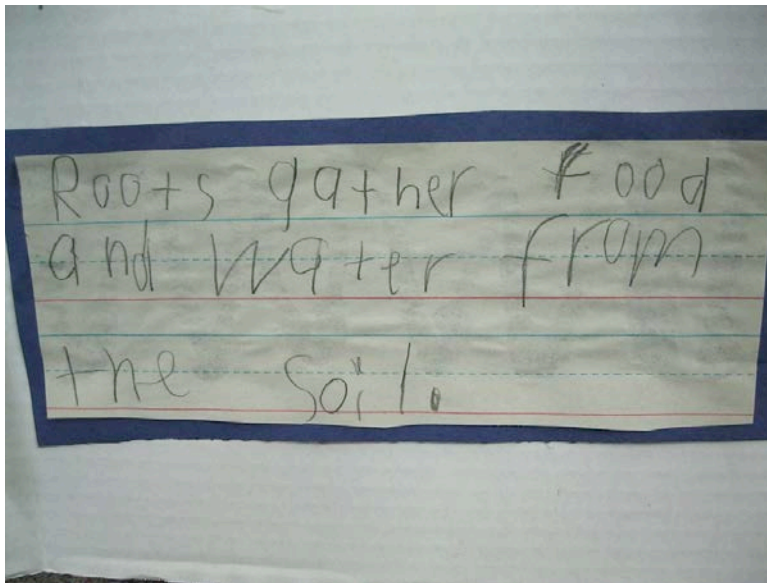
ART

GLE's

- Fill an area with solid color/value using crayon, pencil, or marker.
- Apply paint with a dragging, not pushing motion.
- Use glue with control.
- Identify and use form.

ART ACTIVITIES

- Create a winter Birch bark art project.
- Make hand Trees.
- Make a poster showing the Parts of a Tree.
- Build a tree house.
- Design your own leaf.
- Make tissue paper pine trees.
- Decorate a Christmas tree.



The photo above shows the written part of a Tree Poster made by a primary student in Meagan Husted's class, Grayling.