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4-Part SERIES

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Nature's Coolers

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Presents

TREES

NATURE'S COOLERS



**Naturally
Nature**
4-Part Series for *kids*

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

INTRODUCTION TO SERIES

Naturally Nature is a fascinating 4-part series for young children carefully crafted to bridge the gap between a child's play and introductory science. By focusing upon the setting where children play and then gradually highlighting the underlying natural science, this introductory series completes an important next step in a child's introduction to social studies and science.

As a complementary device with each video, an instructional guide suggests exercises to help teachers, parents and students. These interactive exercises will reinforce and further develop a child's level of comprehension about the importance of nature and the joy of learning science.

The instructional guide provides:

- Child-friendly **exercises!** ✓
- Fun-to-do **follow-up activities!** ✓
- Easy-to-learn **reinforcement lessons!** ✓

Permission granted to copy the exercises provided in this guide. For educational use ONLY.

If you were playing or climbing in or near a tree what things would you possibly find? List those things on the solid black lines.



Reinforcement Lessons:

Lesson #1: The video mentions many different kinds of trees (e.g. deciduous trees, fruit trees, evergreen trees, redwood trees, etc.) Assemble the children to go outside and collect leaves from the different trees which inhabit your area. Then place a piece of paper on top of the leaf(s) and with a lead pencil or color crayon quickly shade over it. (Like the technique visitors use to trace names from the Vietnam Wall.) Perhaps have the children design a collage or create a wall decoration from the tracings etc.

Lesson #2: Trees have different appearances during each season (spring, summer, autumn & winter). Assign the children to draw (perhaps use a computer) or cut out pictures in magazines to indicate how various trees look during different times of the year.

Lesson #3: Assign the children to bring small parts of trees into class (bark, leaves, pine needles, wood, etc.). Then, if possible, use a microscope(s) and have the children view the parts.

Lesson #4: The video mentions many important roles trees fulfill in the earth's environment. Discuss with the class what those roles are: (e.g. provides oxygen to breathe and food to eat for people and animals; major resource for home products; provides shelter for some animals; produces shade to keep cool on hot summer days; etc.)



Trees are really cool! It's fun climbing, swinging or hiding behind trees. For children, trees provide a place of adventure and independence. But trees are more than nature's place to play, they are our breathing partners and natural air conditioners. Why, if we removed too many trees we might just find ourselves a bit hot and slightly breathless.

Program Objectives

After viewing the program, children should understand:

- what a tree is & the role it plays in the natural nature of earth.
- the different kinds of trees.
- what things people make from trees & what foods trees produce.
- a working vocabulary (keywords) associated with trees.
- why people & animals need trees.

Keywords: **Teacher's Note:** Before assigning the following exercises discuss with the children these definitions for keywords:

- **Bark** - the outermost layer of wood which keeps trees from drying out and protects them from insects and disease.
- **Carbon Dioxide** - an invisible gas produced by people and animals while exhaling (breathing out). Through their leaves, trees then take the invisible gas (Carbon Dioxide) and use it to make oxygen for people and animals to inhale (breathing in). (SEE PG. 4)
- **Deciduous Trees** - have soft, flat leaves that change color in autumn, fall off in the winter, with new leaves then growing back in the spring.
- **Erosion** - to slowly eat into or wear away. Roots keep soil in place which helps to slow down this process.
- **Heartwood** - the oldest wood of the hard inner core (circle / ring) inside a trees trunk.
- **Oxygen** - an invisible gas produced by trees. People and animals then take the invisible gas (Oxygen) and use it to inhale (breathe in). (SEE PG. 4)
- **Roots** - take in the water and minerals from the ground that trees need to live. Roots also hold a tree in place.
- **Shade** - a cool spot (shadow) provided when a tree's leaves and branches come between the sun and the ground.
- **Tree** - a woody perennial plant having roots and a main stem called a trunk. From the trunk branches extend bearing leaves and sometimes fruit.

Follow-Up Activities:

- 1) **Ask a botanist to visit your school to discuss the importance of trees and how trees effect the surrounding ecosystem.**
- 2) **Visit a local science museum, forest preserve or wildlife conservatory to reinforce the information in the video and further educate the children about the importance of trees.**
- 3) **People use trees for many things (exercise 1 page 3 of this guide). Have the children write a list of the things they see or use either in school or at home which have been produced from trees.**
- 4) **Trees are a vital resource for their surrounding ecosystem. Discuss with the children the many different life forms which live among trees (e.g. animals, insects, birds etc.) How do these different life forms use trees? What different types of food do trees produce for these various life forms?**

Exercise #4:

The video discusses how each ring or circle inside the trunk of a tree indicates how old the tree is. Circle the correct age for each tree trunk shown below.



Exercise #1:

Circle the parts which make up a tree:

- monkey, insect, squirrel, dirt
- cable, bulb, battery, fuse
- roots, bark, leaves, trunk, branches

Place an X in the box to indicate 4 different kinds of trees:

- Woody Curocious Fuby Veggie
- Deciduous Evergreen Fruit Redwood
- Symmetry Finicky Tantrum Pokeman

People use trees for many things.
Draw a line from the tree in the center
to the things people use trees for:



FURNITURE



FOOD



COMPUTER



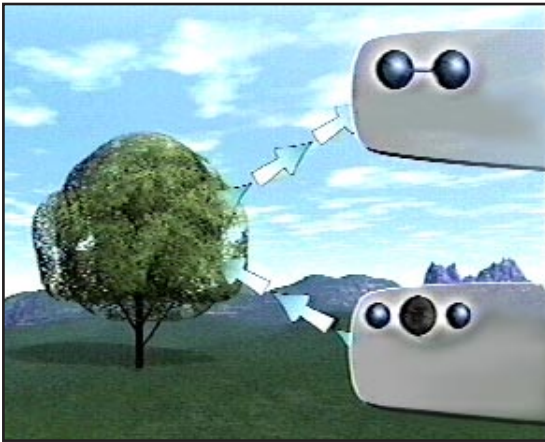
PAPER

Exercise #2:

One of the reasons people, animals & trees need one another is because they exchange the invisible gases which are involved with breathing. On the solid black line provided below, write the **keywords**, as illustrated in the video, which describes these invisible gases.

Keywords:

- Vapor / Gasoline
- Water / Pollution
- Oxygen / Carbon Dioxide



Exercise #3:

Below are the keywords and their definitions discussed in the video. Match the keyword with its definition by writing the number in the box. *Follow the Example Shown.* **Teacher's Note:** before circulating handouts for this exercise discuss the definitions for these keywords.

Keywords:

- example • erosion
- heartwood
- bark
- shade

Definitions

- 1) the outermost layer of wood which keeps trees from drying out and protects it from insects and disease.
- 2) a cool spot (shadow) provided when a tree's leaves and branches come between the sun and the ground.
- 3) to slowly eat into or wear away. Roots keep soil in place which helps to slow down this process.
- 4) the oldest wood of the hard inner core (circle / ring) inside a trees trunk.