



ThemeWorks: Trees



IN A NUTSHELL

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ThemeWorks
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SUBJECTS

Fine Arts
Health
Language Arts
Mathematics
Physical Education
Science
Social Studies

Using poetry, music, cooking, literature, drama, art, math, and science activities, this book exposes young children to the world of trees. The unit begins with a ceremony adopting a specific class tree. The eighteen subsequent lessons involve this tree and others and include journaling, sensory awareness, crafts representing tree-dwelling creatures, recipes for foods made from tree products, studies of differing kinds of trees and how trees grow and change over time. The unit culminates with a ceremonial dance around the tree. Materials include reproducible masters, tree songs with guitar chords, a sample letter to parents explaining the unit, recipes, general suggestions for crafts and laboratory experiments, and a curriculum chart listing activities in different subject areas. Suggested supplementary readings are identified throughout the book and are summarized in a resource list.

Grade Level
K-2

Length
64 pages

Date Published
1991

THE BOTTOM
LINE

"Many of the components allow teachers to view samples rather than long explanations. They quickly can determine what to include."

| What the REVIEWERS Said ! | Key Characteristics | Strengths Noted | Other Considerations |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| | Fairness and Accuracy | Information is factual, not likely to change. Addresses a few different cultures and their relationship to trees. | |
| | Depth | Emphasizes interdependence of trees and people. Looks at the concept of ecosystem. | Provides overall theme, but no conceptual framework. Largely a collection of quick facts about trees. |
| | Emphasis on Skills Building | Develops observation, inquiry, comparison, counting, and measuring skills. | |
| | Action Orientation | N o t A p p l i c a b l e . | |
| | Instructional Soundness | Material is interdisciplinary, learner-centered, and addresses a variety of learning styles. Makes connections to everyday life. | Does not state objectives. |
| | Usability | Uses readily available materials. Activity instructions are user-friendly and easy to follow. | Page numbering is off in some situations. |

"Materials are appropriate for this age group and easy for the teacher to use."

"Trees seem to be the background for interdisciplinary activities, rather than the focus of the lesson."