

Tree Survey Challenge

A tree survey is an interesting project for classrooms, youth organizations or individuals. Start with trees growing around an individual's home and property. The survey can then branch out to include the street, neighborhood and school grounds. Invite citizens throughout town to be involved in compiling an inventory of all the types of trees in your community. It takes a little more work, but it's worth it!

Computer technology could be integrated. For example, students in one school would collect, process and share data via computer with other students within their school system. Forming a partnership with a school system in a different part of the county would increase knowledge of tree species on a regional level. For example, pairing with a school system further to the north or south, in a river valley or rocky hill town, could produce interesting results. Discussions on geography, geology and climate may arise.

Take the Tree Survey Challenge and look at trees you pass every day in a different way. Like a tree, the project can begin small and grow larger. It can also be a lot of fun.

 **Activity:** Tree Survey

 **Materials:** survey sheet copies (on following page), pencils, computer (optional)

- 1.) Choose an area to examine trees called a "survey area." A good place to start is around an individual's home and property.
- 2.) Pass out 1 survey sheet per student. The 4 questions can be answered on the back of the survey sheet or on scrap paper, if necessary, rather than using a separate survey sheet for each tree.
- 3.) Take the sheets home and record the tree data (4 questions). Encourage adult/parent participation in the project.
- 4.) Share the results in the classroom or youth group.
- 5.) Make a list of the different tree species surveyed. Use each species as a category to record group information. Use the sample provided on the following page as a model, or create your own. Keep it simple!



Source: *Totally Tree-mendous Activities* by Sarah Hollister