

ARBOR DAY ACTIVITIES!

Arbor Day comes at different times of the year in different parts of the world. The first Arbor Day in the United States was celebrated in the state of Nebraska on April 22, 1872. Many states followed suit, celebrating Arbor Day in the month of April.



On Arbor Day, many schools and civic organizations plant one or more trees to beautify their parks and cities. In some countries, Arbor Day comes when a child is born. The family plants a tree and names it after the baby. Some people plant one kind of tree for a girl and another for a boy.

Here are some activities that can be used to help recognize Arbor Day:

- 1. COLLECTION OF LEAVES** – Ask children to collect leaves from a variety of trees. They can display the leaves on the class bulletin board and categorize them according to the type of tree such as deciduous, evergreen, etc.

They could also use the leaves for crayon rubbings. Place the leaves on a smooth desktop and have students lay a piece of plain paper on top of the leaves. Children gently crayon over the leaves creating interesting designs and textures from the various leaf shapes.

- 2. TREE QUESTIONS** – Hold a class discussion regarding the various types of trees and the purpose they serve in our world. Here are a few questions you might want to use to start off your discussion.

Trees are important because they provide oxygen. Why is this important? Where in the world are people most concerned about the depletion of our forests? What reason do they give?

Trees are used in various industries. What products are made from trees? What types of trees are used? What types of jobs rely on tree products?

How can we preserve our forests? What steps can we take to recycle wood products? What alternatives are available?

- 3. RESEARCH TREES** – Assign each student a type of tree to research. They might like to include a drawing of their tree, explain its seasonal changes and lists its various functions and purposes.

You might want to assign a state to each child in the class. Have students research their state's official tree. Drawings of the trees can be displayed around a map of the United States. Yarn can be used to indicate which tree belongs to which state.