

Activity 2: Get In Touch With Trees

Overview

By way of trees in the neighborhood and a mystery box, students will explore their sense of touch and discover different shapes and textures in nature.

How to Use This Information

This supplement enhances the information provided in the Background section of this activity. Use this material in addition to the information contained on page 20 of PLT's Pre K-8 Activity Guide.

Resources

Farrar, John Laird. Trees of the Northern United States and Canada, Iowa State Univ. Press, Ames, Iowa, 1995.

Harlow, William M. Trees of the Eastern and Central United States and Canada, Dover Publications, Inc., New York, NY, 1957.

Little, Elbert L. National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees: Eastern Region. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1980

Petrides, George A. and Janet Wehr. Peterson Field Guides: Eastern Trees. Boston. Houghton Mifflin Co., 1998.

www.enature.com/fieldguides

www.naturalinquirer.org

www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/naturewatch

Correlations to NH Frameworks

Literacy:

Written and Oral Communication:

Habits of Writing: 2.2, 2.3

Expressive Writing: 4.1, 4.2

Oral Communications:

1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2

Science:

Life Science: LS2.1

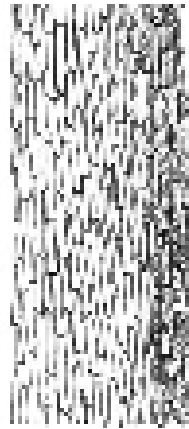
Science Process Skills: SPS3.1, SPS4.2

Correlations found at
www.nhplt.org/Correlations.htm

Bark Styles

One of the most identifiable characteristics for trees is their bark. Many native trees of New Hampshire typify these different bark styles:

Scaly



White Oak

Smooth



American Beech

Peeling



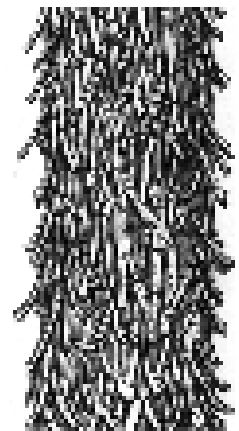
Paper Birch

Shredded



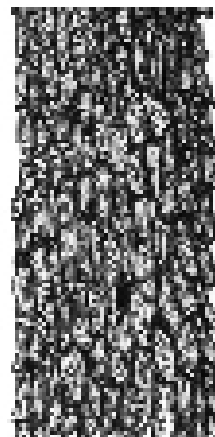
Eastern Redcedar

Shaggy



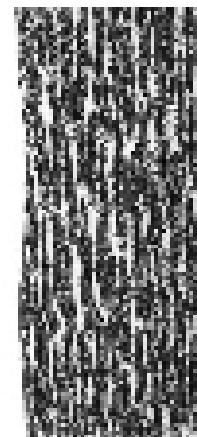
Shagbark Hickory

Plate-like



Red Pine

Furrowed



White Ash

Young Bark vs. Mature Bark

Some trees exhibit different bark types as they mature. For instance, the bark of a young paper birch is smooth and brown, but in its mature state, the bark is white and peeling. The progression of bark changes depends on a tree's site and the growing conditions. New Hampshire has many examples of other trees with bark styles that change as they age.



bark of mature paper birch tree

Tree Species	Appearance of Young Bark <i>(2" diameter trunk)</i>	Appearance of Mature Bark <i>(12" diameter trunk or larger)</i>
red oak	smooth with reddish, vertical cracks	loses red color between fissures, shallow dark furrows, long flattish pale gray ridges
black oak	smooth, dark gray	almost black, deeply furrowed, irregular rounded ridges forming squared pattern
striped maple	smooth, green or brownish-green, becoming green with vertical whitish stripes	greenish-brown with dark stripes
eastern white pine	smooth, thin, greenish-brown	thick, rough, brown
black ash	light gray, soft, corky ridges	scaly
eastern redcedar	smooth, thin, shiny reddish-brown	dry, reddish-brown, shredded
black cherry	smooth, dark reddish-brown to black	curved squarish scales
poplar	smooth, pale green to white with powdery bloom	darker, furrowed into long flat-topped ridges
yellow birch	yellow, peeling	plate-like
shagbark hickory	gray, smooth	gray, shaggy