

Meet a Tree

GOOD FOR ALL AGES
10–20 MINUTES

MATERIALS

- Blindfolds

INSTRUCTIONS

This activity allows for a more focused exploration of the forest as students meet and become familiar with specific trees with senses other than sight. It is an opportunity for teamwork as students work to guide and keep each other safe. This is an activity that should be modeled for the students before they begin any of the steps.

Divide students into pairs, use one pair as a model (or, model with chaperones, teachers, or yourself).

One person in each pair will wear a blindfold, and the other person will lead them to a tree. Model for the students how to physically guide the blindfolded person by holding hands, hands on shoulders, etc... Model giving guidance such as “duck down” or “we’re going uphill” or “there’s a stump to step over.”

At the tree, give the person wearing the blindfold time to explore the tree. Encourage them to use all their senses, noting texture, smells, branches, and landmarks around the tree. Once they are familiar with the tree, lead the blindfolded student back to the starting point.

Remove the blindfold and have that person try to find the tree they had met while blindfolded. Give clues to help find the tree as needed. When they have found it, ask them what helped them identify their tree.

Have students switch roles, with the other partner now wearing the blindfold and repeat the steps so every student has a chance to meet a tree.