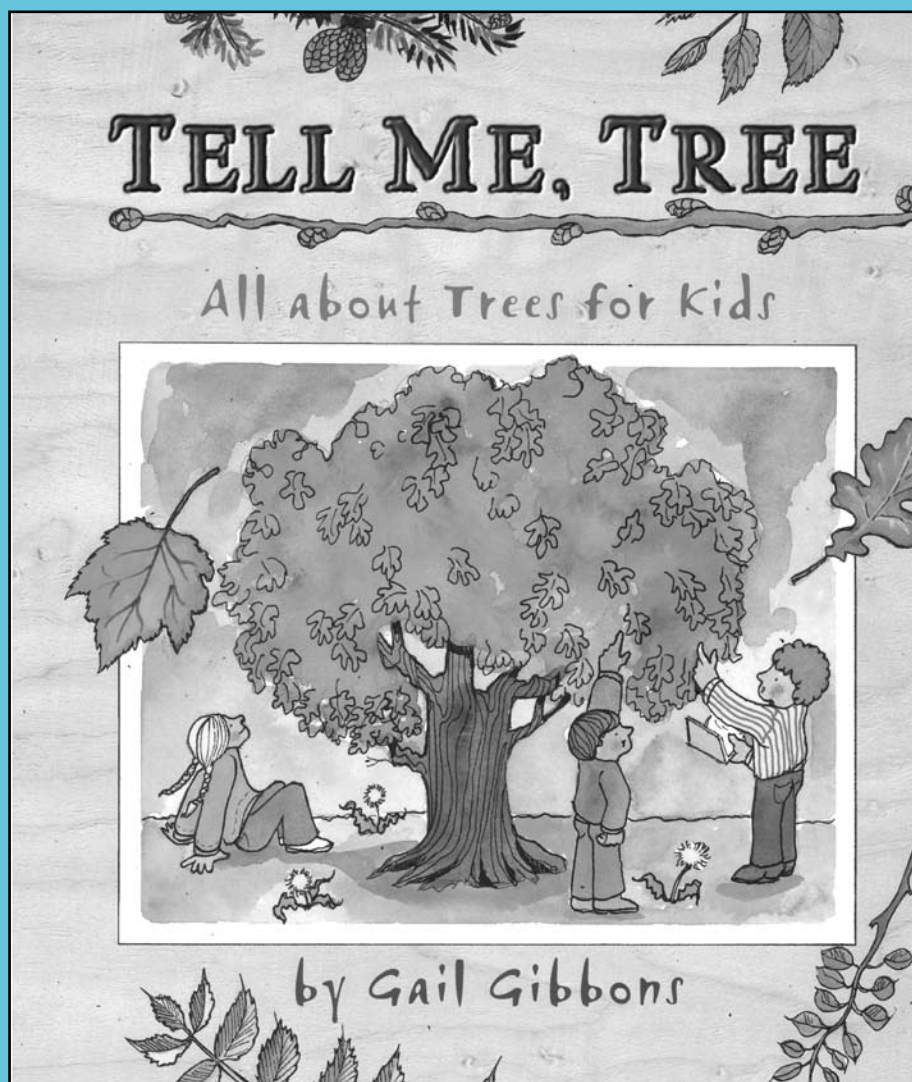


# TELL ME, TREE

## ALL ABOUT TREES FOR KIDS



### curriculum connections

- ❖ Environment
- ❖ Natural Science

by Gail Gibbons

## Tell Me, Tree *in the classroom*



- Do different trees grow at different rates?
- Do newly planted trees grow faster than older trees?
- Do larger trees grow more than smaller trees?

### Tree Measuring

- Try measuring the height of a tree, although this can be complicated. You will need a protractor and a laser pointer or a flashlight that can shine a narrow point of light. Tape the light to the protractor so it is elevated at a 45-degree angle. Place the protractor on the ground

so the light shines on the tree. Move the light back or forward until it shines on the top of the tree. Place a mark on the ground. Measure the distance from the mark to the base of the tree. This will be the approximate height. (Caution: Children should not handle a laser light pointer. It is for adult use only.)

## Science and Math Activities

### Leaf Collecting

- A great fall activity is leaf collecting. Have students collect as many different kinds of leaves as they can find. Make a chart showing each child's name, the kinds of leaves he/she has found, and the number of leaves. Graph the results.

### Adopt a Tree

- Have teams of students adopt a tree on or near the school grounds. Identify the tree by observing its leaves, bark, and seeds (if available). Using a big enough string, measure the girth of the tree in centimeters at a standard height of one meter from the ground. Every month during the school year, re-measure the tree and note any change. Graph the results. (Growth increases may not be dramatic.) Things that can be discussed are:
  - What period of time did the tree grow the most (fall, winter, spring, or summer)?
  - Were there any times the tree didn't grow?

### Tree Inventory

- What types of trees are in your school environment? Have students inventory the types of trees on the school property and/or lining the streets that surround the school. Take a trip to a local park or environmental center and do the same. The children might observe that many species of trees found in parks and forests are not found on the streets. For example, you normally don't find birch trees or apple trees on the streets of your neighborhood. The children can hypothesize why not.

While you are still in the park, find a tree stump. Carefully count the rings and have the children figure out when the tree was planted. They can then research what events were going on in the world when the tree was born.

## Language Arts Activities

### Write Poems

#### Write Poems

- The perfect format for writing poetry about trees is haiku. The form can encompass all the things that trees inspire (color, season, contrast, etc.) Sit among the trees near your school with paper and pencil in hand and let the children contemplate their surroundings. They can write and illustrate their poems. Remember that haiku is a three-line poem with seventeen syllables in all. The first line has five syllables, the second seven syllables, and the last five syllables.

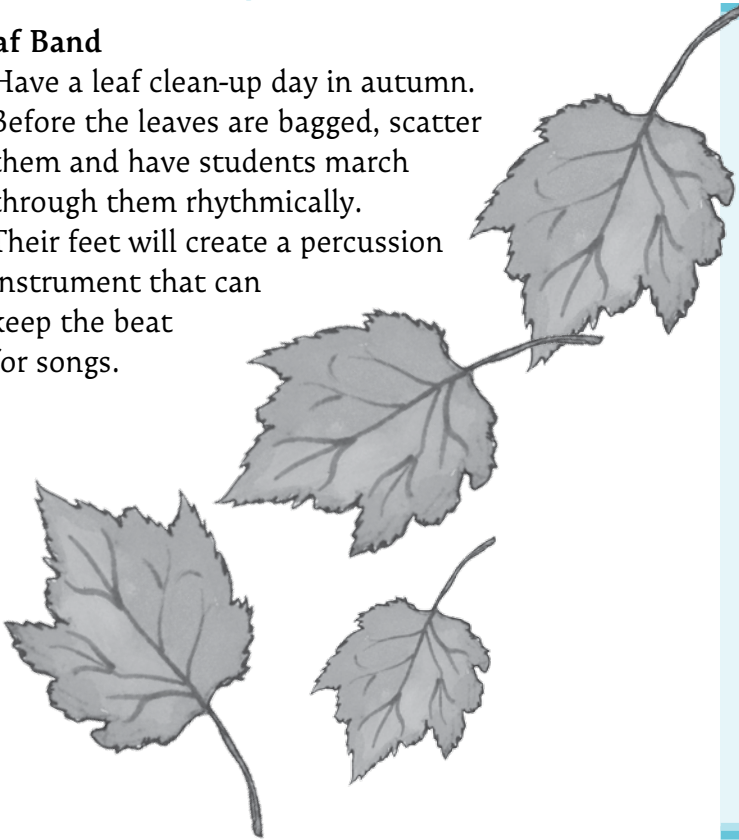
#### Write a Story

- Have students imagine what it's like to be a tree and write tree autobiographies. Students can use this to stage a dialog between trees.

## Music Activity

#### Leaf Band

- Have a leaf clean-up day in autumn. Before the leaves are bagged, scatter them and have students march through them rhythmically. Their feet will create a percussion instrument that can keep the beat for songs.



### Social Studies Activities

#### Plant a Tree

- Planting trees from seedlings is a great class project. Not only will students be able to monitor the growth of a tree, but they will also be beautifying their neighborhood. Join the National Arbor Day Foundation. For a nominal membership fee of ten dollars, you receive all the membership benefits and ten trees for free: either ten Colorado blue spruces or ten flowering trees. Students can research information about the trees and the proper way to plant and care for them. The National Arbor Day Foundation will even replace any seedling that doesn't grow. To reach the National Arbor Day Foundation, go online at [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org). Invite a local gardening expert to talk to students about planting and caring for the trees and to help select appropriate sites for the plantings.

## Hold a Tree Feast

*You can culminate your study of trees and involve students' parents by making an Algonquin wild nut soup. The recipe will serve six, so you'll probably need to make several batches.*

*24 oz. hazelnuts, crushed*

*6 shallots, with tops*

*3 tbs parsley, chopped*

*6 cups stock*

*Salt and pepper to taste*

*Place all ingredients in a large soup pot. Bring to boil and simmer slowly over medium heat for 1-hours, stirring occasionally.*



## praise for *Tell Me, Tree*

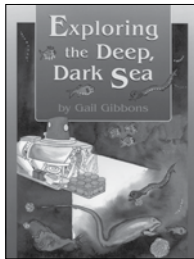
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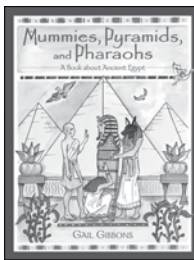
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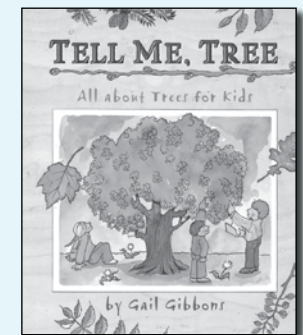
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## about the author

Gail Gibbons has written and illustrated over 100 nonfiction books for children. She has traveled across the country to research such books as *Exploring the Deep Dark Sea*, *Pirates: Robbers of the High Seas*, *Click: A Book About Cameras and Taking Pictures*, *Yippee—Yay! A Book About Cowboys and Cowgirls*, *Recycle!*, and *Knights in Shining Armor*. Her books engage and delight young readers through clear explanations in illustration and text. Go to [www.gailgibbons.com](http://www.gailgibbons.com) to learn more about our featured author.

## about the book

Gail Gibbons' book is a bright and colorful introduction to leaves, trees and their inner workings. The book showcases the wide variety of trees that shelter and surround us. It describes different kinds of trees and how to identify them, and presents the many parts of a tree, inside and out, with detailed cutaway illustrations and labels.